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Fifth annual progress report on the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the fifth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office in Geneva (A/73/395). The Committee also had before it the report of the Board of Auditors on the strategic heritage plan for the year ended 31 December 2017 (A/73/157). During its consideration of the above-mentioned reports, the Advisory Committee met with members of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors and the representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 15 October 2018.

2. The Secretary-General indicates that his report is submitted pursuant to section V of General Assembly resolution 68/247 A, section III of Assembly resolution 69/262 A, section X of Assembly resolution 70/248 A, section XVIII of Assembly resolution 71/272 A and section XVI of Assembly resolution 72/262 A. The Secretary-General further indicates that the report summarizes the planning and construction-related actions accomplished since 1 September 2017, and that the financial information contained in the report is based upon the available data as at 31 July 2018.

II. Project governance and oversight

3. Section II of the report, which provides an update on project governance, states that the Advisory Board held four meetings (October 2017, and February, June and September 2018) to discuss key issues related to the project, such as the implementation of flexible workplace strategies, including ventilation and cooling in the historic Palais des Nations buildings and the progress of valorization activities,

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and that the Steering Committee held three meetings (January, June and August 2018) (A/73/395, paras. 3 and 4).

4. The report also states that following a recommendation from the Board of Auditors and in line with paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee on the third annual progress report on the strategic heritage plan (A/71/622), the risk management services contract was amended to fully distinguish between: (a) independent quarterly risk management reporting to the governance structures independent of the project team; and (b) integrated monthly risk management reviews that are carried out as an integral part of the work of project management team.

5. In addition, the report indicates that the Board of Auditors conducted two further extensive audits of the strategic heritage plan, from 18 September to 20 October 2017 and 29 January to 9 February 2018. The Board has issued 13 new main recommendations in its latest report (see A/73/157). The Board indicates that the recommendations made in its first report (A/70/569, para. 81) have been fully implemented or closed (A/73/157, para. 15). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the recommendations issued in the Board's most recent report will be implemented fully and expeditiously.**

III. Progress of the project

6. The report provides an update on project progress, including: (a) the awarding and signing of a contract and the start and continuation of construction work for the new permanent building H and the completion of work to reinforce the roof of the underground car park in building E; (b) the completion of detailed design work and near completion of technical design activities for the full tender for the renovation of the historic buildings to be launched in the last quarter of 2018; (c) the publication of the request for expressions of interest for the renovation contract of the historic buildings, following significant outreach; (d) the completion of the prequalification selection process of bidders and the preparation of the contract schedules, specifications and tender documentation; (e) the redesign of the internal floor layouts of the new permanent building H to fully incorporate flexible workplace strategies; (f) the further detailed refinement of business continuity plans; (g) the further development of the phasing strategy for staff moves to and from the swing space created within the new building H; and (h) the initiation of change management activities related to the implementation of flexible workplace strategies (A/73/395, para. 12).

7. The report of the Secretary-General states that the project is proceeding in line with the overall schedule, with some delay in the construction of the new H building owing to unforeseen and problematic soil conditions, which required the redesign of the foundations and the introduction of retaining walls in some areas. The report further states that the time delays are being mitigated as much as possible through agreed value engineering proposals with the contractor, and that the related costs are currently being contained within the overall budget allocation for the new building work and within the overall project programme. (A/73/395, para. 13).

8. The report of the Board of Auditors provides detailed information on project activities under each of the three sections of the construction work of the strategic heritage plan, namely: the construction of the new building H; the renovation of the historic 1930s buildings; and the work relating to building E (A/73/157, para. 87). The report also identifies a number of interdependencies between the three components and points to areas where there are risks of further delays. With regard to the construction of new building H, the Board notes that construction work started about seven weeks later than planned and that further delays may arise related to the

implementation of flexible workplace strategies. It notes that the delays in the completion of building H, which is to serve as a swing space, could have an impact on the overall completion date of the project (ibid., paras. 89–110). With regard to the renovation work, table 1 of the Board's report provides a summary of the key milestones and the evolution of the planning in the project schedule since 2016. The Board notes that the overall project schedule has become significantly tighter since 2016, with no buffer time between the completion date for the construction work envisaged by the strategic heritage plan team and the latest completion date approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/248 A and reaffirmed in its resolution 72/262 A. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed by the Audit Operations Committee that significant mitigation steps were required to alleviate potential delays, but that in view of the fact that construction work was still at an early stage, opportunities remained for mitigation measures and meeting the overall completion date of the strategic heritage plan by December 2023.

9. **The Advisory Committee is concerned by the increased risks to the project schedule and expects that the requisite mitigation measures to alleviate potential risks of delays will be taken in a timely manner. The Committee stresses the need for rigorous project management and close monitoring of areas of risk and vulnerability. It also emphasizes the important roles and responsibilities of the project owner and of the Steering Committee in guiding and overseeing the management of the implementation of the project, facilitating decision-making and the prompt resolution of issues and ensuring the project's progress within the established timeline and budget (see A/72/7/Add.25, para. 11).**

10. With regard to project scope and heritage preservation considerations, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the subdivision of room XII in building A into three rooms, previously proposed as a solution to replace the two dedicated conference rooms in the Palais Wilson, which would no longer be available, would no longer be necessary because two additional conference rooms are being created: the first through the voluntary contribution of the Government of China; the second through the creation of a dedicated area for press agencies, which currently occupy a conference room. **The Advisory Committee welcomes this development.**

A. Flexible workplace strategies and space efficiency

New office building H

11. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that the application to all floors of the new building H of an average ratio of four workstations for five staff (1:1.25) that is being applied at United Nations Headquarters and planned for offices away from Headquarters[1] entailed a revision of the planned allocation of office space to the various organizational units and a redesign of the floor layouts. The report further indicates that this exercise was conducted within the baseline budget and that the final revised technical design documents have been provided to the contractor (A/73/395, paras. 19 and 20).

Existing Palais des Nations buildings

12. With regard to ventilation and cooling in the existing Palais des Nations buildings, the report of the Secretary-General indicates that, based on the recommendation of the project Steering Committee, a working group composed of subject matter experts from both the United Nations Office at Geneva and

[1] See resolution 71/282, para. 2, and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/71/812, para. 19).

Headquarters in New York was set up to further monitor and review the situation (see also A/72/7/Add.25, para. 17, and General Assembly resolution 72/262 A, sect. XVI, para. 2). The report provides some information on the previously observed trend of rising temperatures in Switzerland, and also indicates that this trend accelerated in 2018, with the longest and warmest weather noted since recordkeeping began in 1864. The report states that if the trend continues at the pace it has for the past 30 years, it is essential that cooling be introduced in order to avoid disruption to operations during the more frequent and extended hot periods, as well as to address the current risks to the well-being and productivity of staff and delegates posed by rising temperatures and ensure a healthier working environment for the future (A/73/395, paras. 21–23, and figure IV).

13. The report further states that the most cost-effective way to introduce ventilation and cooling, while fully taking into consideration the heritage preservation imperatives, would be to create more open space and larger shared office spaces, where appropriate, which, in turn, would also allow the implementation of flexible workplaces in some areas of the existing buildings of the Palais des Nations. The report of the Secretary-General states that the renovation of the existing buildings presents greater challenges in implementing flexible workplace strategies, given the structural, technical and heritage characteristics of the existing buildings, the heritage and historical preservation imperatives and the need for a cost-effective renovation to create a modern, healthy, productive and efficient office space. In addition, it is stated that the project team has engaged two specialist heritage consultants to monitor and ensure adherence to the identified heritage preservation imperatives and that the detailed design has also been shared with the heritage authorities of the Canton of Geneva for their review and comments. The report affirms that the technical design process has documented and respected all the key elements of the heritage imperatives identified by the heritage experts as well as the physical, structural and technical considerations of the existing buildings. Figure V of the report indicates, for illustrative purposes, areas of heritage and technical limitations and areas available for implementation of flexible workplace strategies in level 1 of the existing buildings S, C and D.

14. The report presents two options for the introduction of ventilation and cooling in the Palais buildings, as follows:

(a) Under the first option, the work would be undertaken as part of the strategic heritage plan project at an estimated cost of CHF 67 million. The report states that this amount is higher than the requirements estimated under the scenario presented in the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General (A/72/521, paras. 26–33) because the technical designs for the historic Palais buildings and the tender documents, which have already been completed, would have to be carried out again, with the resulting office layout revisions having to be negotiated directly with the contractor who will have been appointed for the renovation works by the time the redesign work is finished. The report further states that these actions would result in an estimated extension of the overall project schedule by a period of an additional 9 to 12 months, which have been factored into the cost estimate of CHF 67 million (A/73/395, paras. 28 and 29).

(b) Under the second option the work would be carried out at a later date under a separate project. The Secretary-General has submitted an estimate for illustrative purposes, based on an assumption of a start date of 2028, which would have an estimated cost of CHF 108 million. The report states that this option would not have an impact on the schedule of the strategic heritage plan but would require the recruitment of a new project management team, a completely new set of design and construction contracts and a new implementation strategy that includes the provision of swing space (ibid., para. 30).

15. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the prevailing practice in Geneva for new and newly renovated buildings is that they are equipped with mechanical ventilation and cooling systems using renewable energy such as lake water. Examples include the recent construction of new buildings by the International Federation of the Red Cross in 2018, and by the World Health Organization, which is scheduled for completion in 2020, as well as the renovation of the existing buildings of the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization, scheduled in 2019 and 2022, respectively.

16. The Advisory Committee was further informed, upon enquiry, that the Palais des Nations currently has mechanical cooling and ventilation for all of the conference rooms in buildings A, C and E, and that the additional ventilation and cooling proposed in the current report of the Secretary-General concerned administrative areas only, including the totality of the S, D and B buildings, all offices in building C and most offices in building A. The Committee was further informed that building E in its entirety is mechanically ventilated and cooled as it was built in the 1970s when this was the prevailing practice.

17. **The Advisory Committee notes that the introduction of the requirement for ventilation and cooling in the historical buildings of the Palais des Nations represents an expansion of the scope of the strategic heritage plan. The Committee is of the view that it would have been more appropriate if the requirements for ventilation and cooling had been included in the initial plan presented to the General Assembly and the related requirements included as part of the loan request for the renovation of the Palais. The Advisory Committee trusts that the need for rigorous and thorough planning of all aspects of capital projects should be included in the lessons learned from the strategic heritage plan.**

18. **In view of the Secretary-General's statement that it is essential for cooling to be introduced to address the current risks to the well-being and productivity of staff and delegates (see para. 12 above), the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of ventilation and cooling at the Palais des Nations.**

19. **With regard to timing considerations, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the postponement of the or introduction of ventilation and cooling work and the creation of a separate project after completion of the strategic heritage plan would be more disadvantageous for the Organization than the proposed alternative. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to implement the work as part of the strategic heritage plan project (see para. 14 (a) above) and use this window of opportunity to limit the costs and ensure that staff and delegates can benefit from ventilation and cooling as soon as the renovation of the Palais des Nations is complete.**

20. With regard to the estimated costs, the Advisory Committee recalls that the additional resources under the scenario presented in the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General were estimated to range between CHF 40 million to 50 million (A/72/521, para. 31). As indicated above, an estimate of CHF 67 million is presented in the current report of the Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that there is a need for greater clarity regarding the estimated requirements, including a detailed breakdown of the costs related to the introduction of the ventilation and cooling system in the historical buildings of the Palais des Nations. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to seek greater efficiency and complementarity with ongoing activities under the strategic heritage plan and to refine and reduce the estimated resource requirements.**

21. The Secretary-General proposes to finance the estimated additional requirements of CHF 67 million through valorization income in order to offset, over the life time of the project, any related appropriations from Member States. For 2019, however, he states that additional appropriations and assessments on Member States in the amount of CHF 10 million are required, as shown in table 1 of the report. With regard to the utilization of valorization income, the Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 72/262 A, the General Assembly decided that all income from the rental or valorization of land owned by the Organization in Geneva would be reflected under income section 2, General income, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. **In view of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee considers that the Secretary-General should explore different options and seek alternative funding sources for the additional resource requirements, including value engineering, efficiencies and voluntary contributions.**

22. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 72/262 A, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the application of flexible workplace strategies at the Palais des Nations took into account staff welfare and productivity, the physical characteristics and the specific heritage preservation needs, as well as ongoing business transformation initiatives, in a cost-effective manner (resolution 72/262 A, sect. XVI, para. 9). In the same resolution, the Assembly also endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in its fourth annual report on the strategic heritage plan (A/72/7/Add.25), to proceed with the construction of the new building with the full implementation of flexible workplace strategies, but not to proceed with the proposed essential design and construction works to introduce mechanical ventilation with cooling, which would be necessary for the cost-effective implementation of flexible workplace strategies for the renovation of the historic Palais office buildings (ibid., para. 37: see also A/73/395, para. 18), and the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Secretary-General continue to monitor the situation (A/72/7/Add.25, paras. 16 and 17). **In view of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee considers that the General Assembly should be provided with information on the implementation of ventilation and cooling in the Palais des Nations both with and without flexible workplace strategies. Taking into account that the report of the Secretary-General proposes to introduce ventilation and cooling along with flexible workplace strategies, the Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will also provide to the Assembly, at the time of its consideration of the fifth progress report on the strategic heritage plan, information on the implementation of ventilation and cooling in the Palais without flexible workplace strategies for consideration and decision by the Assembly.**

23. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to present a detailed proposal for the financing of ventilation and cooling systems in the historical buildings of the Palais des Nations in his next progress report, taking into account its observations and recommendations in paragraphs 20, 21 and 22 above. Pending a decision of the Assembly on this matter, and in order to allow the design work to commence and avoid further delays and risks to the schedule of the strategic heritage plan project, the Committee recommends that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to an amount of CHF 10 million for the requirements of the project in 2019 (see para. 50 below).**

B. Attracting additional United Nations entities to the Palais

24. Information on the action under way to attract additional United Nations entities to the Palais des Nations is provided in the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/395,

paras. 39 and 40). It is indicated that an offer to accommodate the staff of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the new building H upon its completion has been conveyed, as additional floor space has been freed up by the implementation of flexible workplace strategies. In addition, the Secretary-General continues to actively engage with other United Nations entities with a presence in Geneva to encourage them to become future tenants of the Palais des Nations. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue to explore the possibility of attracting additional United Nations entities to be accommodated at the renovated Palais des Nations.**

25. With regard to the additional personnel of any new tenants that could be accommodated and the rental income that could be generated by increased capacity, the report of the Secretary-General states that the feasibility study proposed in the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General is required in order to provide an accurate estimate of the potential number of additional personnel that could be accommodated by opening up the spaces suitable for flexible workplace strategies (A/73/395, paras. 21, 32 and 34). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in the absence of the above-mentioned feasibility study, the best available estimate of potential rental income available per annum remained at the amount of $2.7 million per year, as indicated in table 9 of the fourth progress report.

C. Measures to eliminate physical, communications and technical barriers to persons with disabilities

26. The report of the Secretary-General provides an update on the measures to eliminate physical, communications and technical barriers to persons with disabilities. The report states that, pursuant to section X, paragraph 30, of resolution 70/248 A, section XVIII, paragraph 13, of resolution 71/272 A and section XVI, paragraph 10, of resolution 72/262 A, a full and comprehensive accessibility master plan was provided by a specialist consultancy firm, and accessibility audits have been and continue to be implemented throughout the various design stages for both the new and existing buildings.

27. Upon request for further details on the accessibility master plan referred to in paragraph 41 of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee was informed that a comprehensive and detailed scope of work had been developed, including, but not limited to, improvements to the main entrances, the elevators, the staircases, the restrooms and to amenity and office areas, as follows: (a) the main accessible entrances will be equipped with intercoms, and defined indoor paths in the main halls and corridors will be equipped with guiding systems and purpose-built lighting and tactile signage; (b) the main elevators will be improved and/or replaced, ensuring adequate manoeuvring space and sufficient door width for a wheelchair, as well as intercom availability; (c) the staircases located along main indoor routes will be fitted with tactile and contrasted markings, such as handrails with information in Braille; (d) the existing restrooms will be improved to be code-compliant and additional ones will be created with sufficient manoeuvring space, easy-to-open doors and required accessories and intercom installations; and (e) the interior fit-out of amenity and office areas will include sufficient manoeuvring space, tactile information strips and suitable height for furniture, equipment and installations such as electrical sockets and switches. **The Advisory Committee commends the United Nations Office at Geneva for the efforts it has made towards eliminating barriers to persons with disabilities and trusts that it will continue to pursue such efforts. The Committee looks forward to receiving updates on this matter in future progress reports of the Secretary-General. The Committee discusses the above**

issues further in its report on the pattern of conferences (A/73/458) and on the capital master plan (A/73/468).

IV. Project costs

28. Table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General shows the projected summary cost plan for the strategic heritage plan project from 2014 to 2024, and a summary of the main changes to the cost plan since the previous progress report (A/72/521) is provided in paragraphs 66 to 68 of the report. These include a decrease under construction/renovation costs of the historic buildings of the Palais and E building (CHF 20.2 million) and increases under associated costs (CHF 4.5 million) and consultancy services (CHF 16.1 million) (see para. 30 below). The report further indicates that escalation costs, which would decrease by CHF 4.3 million, have remained at 1.4 per cent for 2019 and 1.6 per cent per year from 2020 onwards, and have not been calculated on project costs that have already been contracted and committed at the date of the issuance of the report (A/73/395, para. 70). The amount of the projected contingency has also been revised downwards as compared with the previous report based on the contingency management strategy explained in paragraphs 77 to 86 of the report of the Secretary-General.

29. As indicated in tables 3 and 4 of the report of the Secretary-General (see also A/73/395, para. 71), actual cumulative project expenditure for the period from 2014 to 31 July 2018 amounted to CHF 131.2 million and the projected expenditures for the remainder of 2018 are estimated at CHF 13.5 million. A further breakdown of costs by type for each funding source, provided in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General, shows that cumulative expenditures against the approved funding from Member States for the period 2014–2018 amounted to CHF 95.2 million as at 31 July 2018 and that projected expenditures for the period from August to December 2018 are estimated at CHF 6.5 million. Approved funding projected to be drawn from the Swiss loan for the 2014–2018 period is estimated at CHF 42.5 million.

30. With regard to the additional requirement of CHF 16.1 million proposed in the revised cost plan for consultancy services (see para. 28 above), the Advisory Committee was informed that the increase was mainly due to the change in implementation strategy for the renovation works in the historical Palais des Nations buildings, namely the decision to complete the design prior to tendering for construction. Under the baseline implementation strategy, technical design costs were expected to be a responsibility of the main contractor and budgeted under construction and renovation costs. However, with the change in the implementation strategy additional design costs had to be provided for the hiring of a specialized design firm to complete the technical design. The Committee was further informed that the new implementation strategy had also resulted in a significant reduction in risk and in contingency requirements.

V. Project financing

Host country loan agreement

31. The report of the Secretary-General states that the interest-free loan package of CHF 400 million was forecast to be assigned for the new building and for renovation works at the estimated amounts of CHF 125.1 million and CHF 274.9 million, respectively, but that the final assignment values of the loan can only be determined once the actual costs for the new building are known, upon project completion. At that stage, and in accordance with the loan agreement, any remaining balance from the new building loan portion will be applied to the renovation of the existing

buildings, if applicable (A/73/395, para. 75). The report also indicates that the utilization of the loan commenced in 2017 and will be used to fund all eligible costs for the new building, including the costs of construction and consultancy services. From 2019 onwards, the loan will be used to fund part of the eligible costs for the renovation works of the existing buildings, related consultancy services and the dismantling of the building E office tower. Any remaining costs related to construction and consultancy services for the renovation of the existing buildings would be covered by Member States' appropriations and/or donations (ibid., para. 91 (b)). The report further states that, according to the latest project schedule, the 50-year loan repayment for the loan portion applied to the new permanent building H will begin at the end of 2020, when the new building will be occupied, and the repayment of the renovation portion of the loan will start upon completion of the renovation works. In its report, the Board of Auditors recommends that special attention be given to the importance of the decision on the modalities for appropriation and assessment of the funds required for the repayment of the Swiss loan (A/73/157, para. 83).

32. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its appreciation for the continued support offered by the Government of Switzerland for the strategic heritage plan.**

Scheme and currency of appropriation and assessment and multi-year special account

33. The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/262, decided to revert to the establishment of an assessment scheme and currency of appropriation and assessment for the strategic heritage plan at the main part of its seventy-third session and requested the Secretary-General to provide updated detailed information on these issues in his next report. The report of the Secretary-General states that the three possible schemes of appropriation and assessment for the project (one-time up-front appropriation and assessment; multi-year appropriations and assessments; or one-time up-front appropriation with a mix of one-time and multi-year assessments), as well as two options for the currency of appropriation and assessment (the United States dollar or the Swiss franc), remain valid (A/73/395, para. 89). Figures XI, XII and XIII of the report provide updated charts on the three options, and detailed information on expenditures by funding source is provided in annex I to the report. The report also highlights the fact that the project is now near its midpoint and that it will be necessary to enter into significant high-value multi-year construction contracts, which extend beyond one budget year. In its report, the Board of Auditors recommends that the Secretary-General underline the importance of a decision to be taken by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session regarding the scheme and currency of appropriation and assessment for the strategic heritage plan to secure the financing of the project (A/73/157, para. 82).

34. The Secretary-General proposes that the accounting of the project be undertaken through a multi-year special account, funded through appropriations and assessments separate from the programme budget. The report states that, should the General Assembly decide on appropriations and assessments in Swiss francs, the establishment of a multi-year special account separate from the programme budget would be required. The report also indicates that yearly repayments of the loans would be funded under the special account for the duration of the project until 2023 but would thereafter be included in the programme budget for the relevant periods. The multi-year special account would be closed after the financial and administrative close-out of the project, assuming that assessments would have been paid in full by all Member States (A/73/395, paras. 108–110). The Advisory Committee recalls that it previously recommended the establishment of a multi-year special account for the

strategic heritage plan (see A/71/622, para. 39) and also expressed its view that this remained a matter to be decided by the General Assembly (A/72/7/Add.25, para. 28). The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/262 A, decided to revert to the issue at the main part of its seventy-third session.

35. **The Advisory Committee notes that the project has reached a stage at which there is a need to secure the financing of the project and highlights the importance of a decision by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the scheme and currency of appropriation and assessment as well as on the establishment of a multi-year special account. The Committee reiterates its view that the options mentioned above on the scheme and currency of appropriation and on the multi-year special account and assessment constitute policy matters to be decided upon by the Assembly (A/72/7/Add.25, para. 27).**

Alternative funding opportunities

36. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that the United Nations Office at Geneva continues to remain proactive in its efforts to solicit donors to contribute towards the financing of the construction and renovation work at the Palais des Nations. The report provides an update on donations, including secured donations related to the objectives of the strategic heritage plan project, other contributions from Member States in support of the project and further donations offered in the context of the strategic heritage plan, which consist of elements that are not within the scope of the project and therefore would not offset its overall costs (A/73/395, paras. 112–115). **The Advisory Committee welcomes the contributions of individual Member States and other entities, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to pursue his efforts in this regard.**

37. Upon enquiry as to how the donations were taken into account in the overall budget of the strategic heritage plan, the Advisory Committee was informed that, pending the approval of an appropriation and assessment scheme, the donations related to works that are within the approved scope of the project are recognized in the year when the works they finance are to be conducted, reflecting financing for works that would otherwise have had to be financed by assessments on Member States (see A/73/395, annex I, table A.3, and annex II, table B.1). The Committee was informed that other contributions for works that are not included in the approved scope of the strategic heritage work plan will not lead to a reduction of the budget funded by Member States.

VI. Other related considerations

A. Valorization of United Nations-owned land in Geneva

38. The report of the Secretary-General states that valorization activities are progressing, building upon the experience and lessons learned from the successful negotiation of the Villa Feuillantines lease and taking into account the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/272 A, that the Secretary-General ensure that the long-term interests of the United Nations in Geneva are preserved through long-term community-oriented leasing arrangements, as well as the recommendation in the report of the Board of Auditors that a detailed valorization strategy should be developed for all parcels with valorization potential (A/73/157, para. 344). The report of the Secretary-General states that the procurement and selection of an expert consultancy firm was successfully concluded, with the result that two firms were appointed to cover the broad range of specialist services required on an on-call basis, and that detailed development options are being prepared, to enable the realization of

the valorization potential that is most effective and advantageous for the Organization.

39. With regard to the Villa Feuillantines and Parc des Feuillantines land, the report states that an agreement is to be concluded by the end of 2018 with the Fondation pour la Cité de la Musique de Genève for a 90-year lease with development rights in the total amount of CHF 25.6 million, payable in advance, initially at one ninetieth of the full amount per annum, with the full balance coming due in full when the Fondation receives its building permit (estimated to be in 2021). The detailed terms of the lease agreement were developed by a local law firm in full cooperation with the Office of Legal Affairs (A/73/395, paras. 124 and 125).

40. Figure XIV of the report of the Secretary-General provides an overview of the plots of land owned and/or operated by the United Nations Office at Geneva with significant valorization potential. The report indicates that the International School of Geneva has decided to consolidate its current facilities with those located on nearby sites, and that the possibility of relocating the United Nations Training Centre staff currently housed in the Annex Bocage and to jointly utilize and adapt some of the existing facilities in the main Palais buildings is being explored. These latest developments create the potential to valorize a much larger portion of land, either separately or as a much larger contiguous development plot, by combining it with other adjacent land, resulting in a total area of approximately 7,300 square meters. The report states that, taking into account approximately CHF 25 million of surplus valorization income that is nearly secured for 2020 from the Villa Feuillantines land, it can now realistically be envisaged that the original estimated value range of between CHF 50 million to CHF 100 million can now be increased to an estimated range of approximately CHF 80.6 million to CHF 133 million. The report further states that the valorization work currently under way will develop further potential development scenarios, together with further revised estimates of the amount and timing of the receipt of income to be expected from valorization (A/73/395, para. 128).

41. Upon request for clarification as to the duration of the lease of the Villa Feuillantines and Park Feuillantines, the Advisory Committee was informed that a lease term of 90 years is the legal norm in Switzerland and that it is typical for long-term leases where the party leasing the land wishes to develop the site and erect new buildings at its own expense. The Committee was further informed that the value range achievable for the different plots of land varied, depending on their respective sizes and zoning designations, as well as on other considerations such as the permissible development density and possibility of rezoning, offset by any eventual costs related to the realignment of the security perimeter needed to develop the land. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to explore all possibilities for optimizing the potential income to be generated through the valorization of the different plots of land (see resolution 71/272 A, sect. XVIII, para. 23).**

Utilization of surplus income from valorization activities

42. The Secretary-General is requesting the General Assembly to authorize the use of valorization income to fund the associated costs arising from his request that the Assembly approve the implementation of ventilation and cooling, including flexible workplace strategies, in the historic buildings of the Palais des Nations and to offset any Member State appropriations (A/73/395, para. 129). In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 72/262 A, the General Assembly decided that all income from the rental or valorization of land owned by the Organization in Geneva will be reflected under income section 2, General income, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. The Committee also recalls that,

in its resolution 70/248 A, the Assembly reiterated the importance of ensuring that alternative funding mechanisms, including from valorization, were factored into the overall financing scheme in order to reduce assessments on Member States. As indicated in paragraph 21 above, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General should explore all alternative funding opportunities.

B. Security master plan

43. The report of the Secretary-General outlines considerations related to the security master plan as follows: (a) the United Nations Office at Geneva has continued to actively engage in developing a security master plan for the United Nations premises in Geneva in close liaison with the Department of Safety and Security; (b) a comprehensive security assessment was undertaken and a final report was received in January 2018; (c) the security provisions initially envisaged in the scope of the strategic heritage plan remain valid; (d) while some minor changes are required to bring the design of the project fully in line with the updated security master plan, they will not adversely impact the cost or schedule of the strategic heritage plan; and (e) the related resources requirements for the security master plan are being assessed and prioritized, and will be reported on separately to the General Assembly. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that the Board of Auditors has recommended that the cost for maintenance and for safety and security for the new building should be charged proportionally to all potential users in accordance with their individual needs (A/73/157, para. 318).

44. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the United Nations Office at Geneva was actively engaging with host country representatives to address the findings of the consultants' report that forms the basis for the security master plan and was also in discussion with potential donors to assess the potential to cover some of the works from voluntary contributions. The Committee was further informed that the Secretary-General will report in detail to the General Assembly once there is greater clarity on the requirements. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide comprehensive information in his report, taking into account all relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as the observations and recommendation of oversight bodies. The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit his report on the security master plan for the United Nations Office at Geneva for consideration as soon as possible.**

VII. Other matters

A. Procurement

45. Upon enquiry as to the measures that have been taken to respond to paragraph 8 of section XVI of General Assembly resolution 72/262 A, in which the Secretary-General was requested to increase opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the Advisory Committee was informed that the request for expressions of interest for the new building as well as for the renovation tender of the historic buildings was advertised on the website and mobile applications of the United Nations Procurement Division, on the United Nations Global Marketplace, and on the website of the United Nations Office at Geneva. In addition, over 6,000 emails with regard to the construction of the new building and over 20,000 emails regarding the renovation of the historic buildings were sent to companies worldwide who are registered in the Global Marketplace and others who have participated in business seminars on the strategic heritage plan of

the United Nations Office at Geneva requesting them to confirm their interest in participating in the prequalification process. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Permanent Missions in Geneva, requesting them to raise awareness of the opportunity among their qualified national firms. **The Advisory Committee notes the actions taken, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to pursue his efforts with a view to further increasing opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.**

B. Energy efficiency

46. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that one of the core objectives of the strategic heritage plan is to lower the energy consumption at the Palais des Nations by at least 25 per cent as compared with the 2010 baseline (see also A/66/279, para. 11 (c) (iv)). Upon enquiry as to whether a more ambitious target could have been set, the Advisory Committee was informed that the United Nations Office at Geneva has focused on measures to minimize energy consumption for many years, and that, in this context, the 25 per cent target represented a significant improvement in energy efficiency, building on the substantial improvement the Office had already achieved. The Committee trusts that best practices will be shared all across the Organization and applied, as appropriate. In this regard, the Committee recalls the progress made by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of energy efficiency.

47. In its report, the Board of Auditors notes that the data provided by the Facilities Management Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the strategic heritage plan project team regarding energy consumption at the Palais des Nations differ significantly, and is of the view that the currently available data does not constitute a reliable basis for predicting possible energy savings and cost savings. The Board has issued three recommendations related to the establishment of a baseline for the reduction of energy consumption at the start of the implementation of the projects, as well as on the quality of data on energy consumption (A/73/157, paras. 259, 261 and 262). **The Advisory Committee emphasises the importance of establishing a clear baseline with detailed and comparable data both on energy consumption and energy costs that can be used to measure improvements achieved after completion of the project in an objective and reliable manner. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors.**

C. Maintenance

48. The Board of Auditors discusses maintenance issues in paragraphs 264 to 273 of its report and makes a number of recommendations related to the need for a maintenance strategy, the calculation of maintenance and operational costs, as well as on business continuity requirements through all construction/project phases. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following table on the annual maintenance cost for the premises of the United Nations Office at Geneva in the biennium 2018–2019.

(In United States dollars)

Description	*Actual annual cost for 2018–2019*
Cleaning	3 007 235
Utilities	2 610 979
Parks, gardens and landscaping	355 265
Mechanical, electrical and plumbing	3 813 928
Elevators and other lifting equipment	194 177
Security installations*	1 305 906
Total	**11 287 489**

* Under section 33 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/72/6/Sect.33).

49. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the current maintenance figures did not provide an accurate baseline, which is needed to produce a reliable estimation of the maintenance costs that can be expected both during and after the renovation periods, because historically, the maintenance budget assigned had not been sufficient to maintain and conduct periodic renewal of all components of the Palais des Nations buildings. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will continue to refine the above figures for maintenance costs in 2018–2019 and beyond, and to gather the necessary data that can be used to make accurate comparisons of such costs and requirements in the future. The Committee further considers that such data should be gathered in the context of all construction projects for the purpose of establishing a reliable baseline for making comparisons of maintenance pre- and post-project implementation.**

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

50. The action to be taken by the General Assembly is set out in paragraph 135 of the report of the Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee recommends that, subject to its recommendations and comments above, including in paragraphs 20, 21, 22 and 23 above, the Assembly:**

(a) **Take note of the fifth annual progress report of the Secretary-General (A/73/395) and the progress made since the issuance of the fourth annual progress report (A/72/521);**

(b) **Approve the request of the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of ventilation and cooling in the historic buildings of the Palais des Nations, and authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for this purpose up to a total amount of $10 million for the requirements of the ventilation and cooling works in 2019.**

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Agenda item 130
International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Election of two judges to the roster of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 1966 (2010) of 22 December 2010, the Security Council decided to establish the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals with two branches, to commence functioning on 1 July 2012 (branch for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda) and 1 July 2013 (branch for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia), respectively.

2. In accordance with article 8 of the statute of the Mechanism, the Mechanism shall have a roster of 25 independent judges, not more than two of whom may be nationals of the same State.

3. The terms of office of the 25 judges on the roster of the Mechanism were set to expire on 30 June 2018. On 22 June 2018, the Secretary-General informed the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council that, pursuant to article 10, paragraph 3, of the statute, he intended to reappoint 23 of the 25 judges. The Secretary-General received responses from the President of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly on 26 June 2018 and 27 June 2018, respectively. On 29 June 2018, the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council that he was proceeding with the reappointment of 23 of the 25 judges (S/2018/652).

4. As set out in his letter dated 2 August 2018 (S/2018/756), the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Council had carefully analysed the current situation in the Mechanism and reasonably expected that filling the two vacant positions would assist in the effective and timely implementation of the Mechanism's mandate in accordance with resolution 1966 (2010). They had therefore decided that two judges should be elected to the roster of judges of the Mechanism in accordance with article 10 of the statute. The Council therefore requested that the Secretary-General invite States to submit nominations within a period of 60 days. From the nominations received, the Council would establish a list of not less than three candidates, or, should there be only two

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nominations, a list of two candidates, taking due account of the qualifications set out in article 9, paragraph 1, of the statute and adequate representation of the principal legal systems of the world, as well as the nationalities of the current judges of the Mechanism.

5. The President of the Security Council further informed the Secretary-General that the term of office of the two elected judges would terminate at the same time as the term of office of the judges who were currently on the roster, namely, 30 June 2020.

6. In accordance with article 10, paragraph 3, of the statute, the judges shall be eligible for reappointment by the Secretary-General after consultation with the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

7. Pursuant to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 2 August 2018 and in accordance with article 10, paragraph 1 (a), of the statute, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, on behalf of the Secretary-General, by a letter dated 16 August 2018, invited all States Members of the United Nations and non-member States maintaining permanent observer missions at United Nations Headquarters to submit their nominations of up to two candidates for the roster of judges of the Mechanism. In his letter, the Legal Counsel also invited them, in line with United Nations policies, to give due consideration to nominating suitably qualified women candidates.

8. In a letter dated 25 October 2018 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/963), the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 10, paragraph 1(c), of the statute, forwarded to the Council the eight nominations that had been received within the designated period for submission. On 1 November 2018, the Legal Counsel wrote to the President of the Security Council informing him of one nomination that had been received after the deadline. On 13 November 2018, the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Office of Legal Affairs wrote to the President of the Security Council informing him of two additional nominations that had been received after the deadline.

9. The Security Council considered the nominations received by the Secretary-General. The President of the Security Council transmitted a list of 11 candidates to the General Assembly. In accordance with article 10, paragraph 1 (d), of the statute, the list was formally conveyed by means of a letter dated 16 November 2018 from the President of the Security Council to the President of the General Assembly.

10. The list of candidates for judges of the Mechanism and the procedure for the election of judges of the Mechanism are set out below. The curricula vitae of the candidates have been transmitted to the General Assembly in a separate document (A/73/566).

II. List of candidates for judges of the Mechanism

11. The list of candidates for judges of the Mechanism is as follows:

Yusuf Aksar (Turkey)
Mohammed Benhammou (Morocco)
Aboubacar Demba Camara (Guinea)
Mustapha El Baaj (Morocco)
Constant K. Hometowu (Ghana)
Guénaël Mettraux (Switzerland)
Hafiz Nasibov (Azerbaijan)
Michael A. Newton (United States of America)

Mame Mandiaye Niang (Senegal)
Elyakim Rubinstein (Israel)
Moussa Sampil (Guinea)

III. Procedure for the election of judges

12. The election of judges will take place in accordance with articles 9 and 10, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Mechanism.

13. At the first election of judges to the Mechanism, held during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General proposed that, given the similarities in the election of judges of the International Court of Justice, of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, those precedents be followed and rule 151 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly be applied with regard to the election of the judges of the Mechanism. Accordingly, if the number of candidates who receive the required majority is greater than the number of seats available, the General Assembly will hold a new ballot with respect to all available seats, and all candidates will be eligible in that ballot.

14. However, at the first election of 25 judges of the Mechanism, held during the 87th plenary meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, on 16 December 2011, the Assembly decided that, in the event that more than 25 candidates obtained an absolute majority of votes, the 25 with the highest number of votes would be considered elected and, in the event of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there would be a restricted ballot limited to the candidates who had received an equal number of votes. Accordingly, the Assembly may wish to consider following the decision taken at the above-mentioned plenary meeting with respect to the current election.

15. In accordance with article 10, paragraph 1 (d), of the statute, the Holy See and the State of Palestine, as non-member States that maintain permanent observer missions at United Nations Headquarters, will participate in the election in the same manner as the States Members of the United Nations.

16. On the date of the election, the General Assembly will elect two judges for the roster of the Mechanism from the list of candidates submitted to it by the Security Council, as set out in paragraph 11 above.

17. According to article 9, paragraph 1, of the statute, judges of the Mechanism shall be persons of high moral character, impartiality and integrity who possess the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices. Particular account shall be taken of experience as judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia or the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. According to article 9, paragraph 2, of the statute, due account shall be taken, in the composition of the Trial and Appeals Chambers, of the experience of the judges in criminal law, international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law.

18. In accordance with article 10, paragraph 1 (d), of the statute, the candidates who receive an absolute majority of the votes of States Members of the United Nations and of the non-member States maintaining permanent observer missions at United Nations Headquarters shall be declared elected.

19. The consistent practice of the United Nations has been to interpret the words "absolute majority" as meaning a majority of all electors, whether or not they vote or are allowed to vote. The electors in the General Assembly for current purposes are all

193 Member States, together with the two non-member States mentioned in paragraph 15 above. Accordingly, 98 votes constitute an absolute majority in the Assembly for the purpose of the present election.

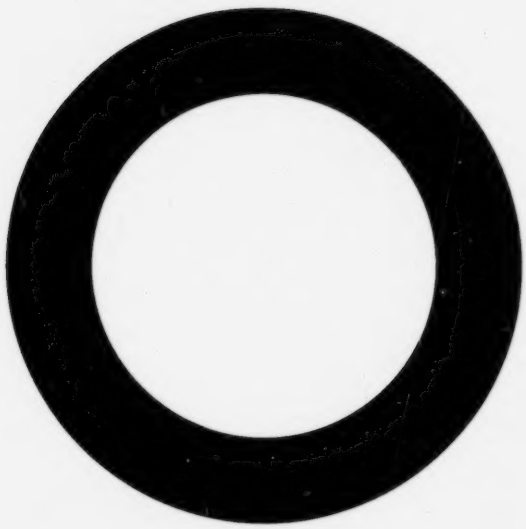
20. Only candidates whose names appear on the ballot papers are eligible for election. The electors will indicate the candidates for whom they wish to vote by placing crosses against their names on the ballot papers. Each elector may vote in the first ballot for no more than two candidates.

21. Should the General Assembly decide to apply the procedure described in paragraph 14 above, if, in the first ballot, more than two candidates obtain an absolute majority, the two candidates obtaining the highest number of votes will be considered elected.

22. If, in the first ballot, no candidate obtains an absolute majority or only one candidate obtains an absolute majority, a second ballot will be held for the remaining seat or remaining seats. In any second or subsequent ballot, each elector may vote for no more than two candidates if no candidate has obtained an absolute majority. If one candidate has already obtained an absolute majority, each elector may vote for no more than one candidate. In the event of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to the candidates who received an equal number of votes.

23. Following the past practice, any second and subsequent balloting will be unrestricted. Votes may accordingly be cast in any second or subsequent ballot for any eligible candidate who has not yet been elected.

24. Two candidates obtaining the required majority and the highest number of votes will be declared elected by the President of the General Assembly.



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International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Letter dated 16 November 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 2 August 2018 (S/2018/756) regarding the decision of the members of the Security Council that two judges should be elected to the roster of judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in accordance with article 10 of the statute of the Mechanism.

Having considered the nominations for the two judges received by the Secretary-General, the members of the Security Council have decided to forward the following nominations to the General Assembly:

Yusuf Aksar (Turkey)
Mohammed Benhammou (Morocco)
Aboubacar Demba Camara (Guinea)
Mustapha El Baaj (Morocco)
Constant K. Hometowu (Ghana)
Guénaël Mettraux (Switzerland)
Hafiz Nasibov (Azerbaijan)
Michael A. Newton (United States of America)
Mame Mandiaye Niang (Senegal)
Elyakim Rubinstein (Israel)
Moussa Sampil (Guinea)

(*Signed*) **Ma** Zhaoxu
President of the Security Council

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Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Revised estimates relating to the resident coordinator system under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the resident coordinator system under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination (A/73/424). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 14 November 2018. Following the meeting, the Committee received the final version of the report of the Secretary-General, which was issued on 1 November 2018.

2. By its resolution 72/279, the General Assembly decided to create a dedicated, independent, impartial, empowered and sustainable development-focused coordination function for the United Nations development system by separating the functions of the resident coordinator from those of the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), drawing on the expertise and assets of all United Nations development system entities, including non-resident agencies. The Assembly also endorsed the transformation of the Development Operations Coordination Office as a stand-alone coordination office within the Secretariat, reporting to the Chair of the Group. As outlined in the resolution, the Office will assume the managerial and oversight functions of the resident coordinator system under the leadership of an Assistant Secretary-General and under the collective ownership of the members of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

3. The General Assembly also decided, in paragraph 10 of the same resolution, to provide sufficient funding for the resident coordinator system on an annual basis starting from 1 January 2019, through:

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(a) A 1 per cent coordination levy on tightly earmarked third-party non-core contributions to United Nations development-related activities, to be paid at source;

(b) Doubling the current United Nations Development Group cost-sharing arrangement among United Nations development system entities;

(c) Voluntary, predictable, multi-year contributions to a dedicated trust fund to support the inception period.

II. Proposal of the Secretary-General on the resident coordinator system

4. The report of the Secretary-General states that the resident coordinator system ensures the coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations, with the objective of leveraging the respective expertise and specializations of United Nations development entities to deliver together more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries. The report also states that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has significantly increased the demands on the United Nations development system, requiring a marked upgrade in the system's ability to coordinate the provision of high-quality, coherent and reliable policy and programming support to Member States (A/73/424, paras. 3 and 5).

5. In paragraph 14 of its resolution 72/279, the General Assembly emphasized the need to ensure full achievement of the efficiency gains envisioned in the report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/684-E/2018/7) in a timely manner and to redeploy those efficiency gains for development activities, including coordination. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the United Nations development system would strive to achieve efficiency gains, projected at $310 million a year by 2022, through savings from common business operations and common back offices, common premises, the merger of United Nations information centres with resident coordinator offices and the implementation of a new generation of United Nations country teams. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the next report of the Secretary-General on the resident coordinator system will provide an update on the efficiency gains achieved.**

6. The report indicates that, in the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, resident coordinators will be directly nominated as the designated representatives of the Secretary-General for development operations. In that capacity, they will lead the United Nations country teams, in consultation with the host Governments, to define and agree on the United Nations strategic response to the Governments' priorities. The report also indicates that, on average, each resident coordinator office will have a minimum capacity of five substantive staff members, including experts in coordination and strategic planning, economics, monitoring and evaluation, communications and strategic partnerships. Each resident coordinator office will have both international and national staff, with a preference for national staff whenever possible (A/73/424, paras. 11 and 12).

7. With respect to the staffing of the resident coordinator offices, the report states that three national officers will be administered by UNDP in 2019, while two support staff (executive assistant and driver) will be provided by UNDP as a service, on the basis of a fee. International staff will be fully administered by the United Nations Secretariat, and staff of all resident coordinator offices are expected to transition to United Nations Secretariat contracts by 1 January 2020. The report indicates that UNDP will provide administrative and operational support services to the regional and country offices on a service-fee basis, for: premises and facilities management;

general administration; finance and procurement; legal affairs; and information, communication and technology. As part of the transition during 2019, UNDP will also provide human resources management services for the national staff in the regional offices of the Development Operations Coordination Office (A/73/424, paras. 19 and 21).

8. The report also indicates that, at the global level, the Development Operations Coordination Office will assume the managerial and oversight functions of the resident coordinator system, including the provision of troubleshooting, quality assurance, advisory and dispute resolution services in close liaison with the relevant regional team of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and other senior officials of the system. Day-to-day programmatic support, policy guidance and technical support, as well as day-to-day support for resident coordinators and country teams, will be backstopped through better-resourced regional desks of the Development Operations Coordination Office, working in close collaboration with the relevant regional team of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (A/73/424, paras. 7 to 9).

Posts

9. According to the report, the Development Operations Coordination Office will consist of 95 posts, to be led by an Assistant Secretary-General who will report to the Deputy Secretary-General. The United Nations Sustainable Development Group will work under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General in her capacity as Chair of the Group and under the guidance of the Vice-Chair of the Group (A/73/424, paras. 7 and 16). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Director of the Development Operations Coordination Office will have a direct reporting line to the Deputy Secretary-General in her capacity as Chair of the Group, while the Vice-Chair of the Group, who is the Administrator of UNDP, will perform an advisory function for the Deputy Secretary-General. This function also includes drawing on inputs of the agencies of the Group on operational coordination for sustainable development.

10. The report states that the 95 posts for the Development Operations Coordination Office comprise 67 posts at Headquarters (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 3 D-1, 12 P-5, 25 P-4, 15 P-3, 2 General Service (Principal level), and 8 General Service (Other level)) and 28 posts (5 D-2, 3 P-5, 11 P-4, 4 P-3 and 5 General Service (Other level)) for the five regional offices based in; Addis Ababa; Amman; Istanbul, Turkey; Bangkok; and Panama City (A/73/424, para. 17).

11. The report also states that, effective 1 January 2019, the posts of the current 129 resident coordinators (12 ASG, 36 D-2, and 81 D-1) will be created within the United Nations Secretariat. Current resident coordinators who choose to remain in their current function will be redesignated by the Secretary-General and appointed under a United Nations Secretariat letter of appointment. Existing resident coordinators will continue to be administered by UNDP in 2019, on behalf of the United Nations Secretariat, while all new resident coordinators appointed from 1 January onwards will be fully administered by the United Nations Secretariat. From 2020 onwards, all resident coordinators will be fully administered by the United Nations Secretariat. Resident coordinators will continue to be double-hatted as humanitarian coordinators and triple-hatted as deputy special representatives of the Secretary-General, in relevant contexts. Currently, there are 12 such positions, 10 at the ASG level and two at the D-2 level. The salaries and common staff costs of the triple-hatted resident coordinators will be paid at 50 per cent by the resident coordinator system and 50 per cent by the respective special political mission or peacekeeping operation in which the resident coordinator is serving (A/73/424, paras. 18 and 20).

12. The Advisory Committee recalls that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/217, the Controller had requested, by a letter dated 30 August 2018, the Committee's concurrence with the establishment of 129 resident coordinator posts and 10 Development Operations Coordination Office posts at the D-1 level and above in the United Nations Secretariat, to be funded from extrabudgetary resources. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that there were 12 resident coordinator posts (10 ASG and 2 D-2) that are part of the staffing table of peacekeeping operations or special political missions. The Committee considered that those posts should continue to be reviewed by the Assembly in the context of the budgets of the relevant peacekeeping operations or special political missions until the Assembly decided otherwise. The Committee therefore concurred with the establishment of 117 resident coordinator posts, effective 1 January 2019, and 10 Development Operations Coordination Office posts, effective 1 November 2018, to be funded from extrabudgetary resources, up to 31 December 2019. The Committee expects that the Secretariat will conduct a review of the number and levels of these posts, and that any future request relating to the posts will include the results of the review and a detailed justification for each post. The Committee also expects that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, as well as geographic balance and gender parity, will be taken into account in the recruitment for these posts, and that the recruitment will also be undertaken in accordance with the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations as applied to the Secretariat. **The Advisory Committee expects that the results of the review will be taken into account in the next report of the Secretary-General on the resident coordinator system.**

13. Regarding the double-/triple-hatted resident coordinators, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, after its consideration of the proposed establishment of the 139 posts mentioned above, that there are nine ASG-level posts and two D-2 level posts in four peacekeeping operations (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)) and five special political missions (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL)); one ASG-level post in the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget; and two ASG-level posts in non-mission settings in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. **The Advisory Committee makes additional observations on the double-/triple-hatted resident coordinators in the context of its report on special political missions (A/73/498).**

Resources

14. In his report, the Secretary-General states that the resident coordinator system will come at a financial cost of $281 million for 2019, including $35 million for coordination activities, which would be allocated across resident coordinator offices in 131 countries and the five regional teams of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (A/73/424, paras. 13 and 14). **The Advisory Committee notes that the budget for the resident coordinator system has been provided in annex II of the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee recalls that it had previously noted that the budget of the resident coordinator system comprises funds from both assessed and voluntary sources contributed by the different member organizations, which are overseen by their respective governing bodies, each of which reviews only the funding related to its specific contribution. The**

Committee had also noted the absence of a unified mechanism for intergovernmental consideration of all aspects of the cost-sharing arrangement, including the global budget of the resident coordinator system. The Committee reiterates its view that there would be merit in a unified mechanism for intergovernmental oversight of the global budget of the resident coordinator system, including the cost-sharing arrangement, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/279 (see also A/70/7/Add.48, para. 22).

15. The report indicates that the Development Operations Coordination Office and the resident coordinator system will be managed financially through a United Nations special purpose trust fund, which will pool the three funding sources provided for by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/279. The trust fund will be housed in the United Nations Secretariat and managed by the Development Operations Coordination Office. Reporting to donors and other stakeholders will be done on the basis of the calendar year, in United States dollars, and available three months after year-end (A/73/424, paras. 23 and 24). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that information on the financial performance and financial position of the trust fund will be included in the financial statements of the United Nations (Vol. I), and that the Controller will provide certified financial statements as of 31 December of each calendar year. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the special purpose trust fund will be managed in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.**

16. According to the Secretary-General, the decision of the General Assembly to double the amount contributed through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group cost-sharing arrangement will generate $77.5 million towards the 2019 costs of the resident coordinator system. It is stated that a new cost-sharing formula for 2021 onwards will be presented to the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the governing bodies of the member entities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group in 2020 (A/73/424, paras. 28 and 29). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the timeline and procedure for the presentation of a new cost-sharing formula are still under discussion. The Committee notes that, in its resolution 72/279, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit for its consideration, before the end of its seventy-fifth session, a review with recommendations on the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding arrangement. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report annually, starting in 2019, to the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding (resolution 72/279, paras. 15 and 16).

17. Based on the decision of the General Assembly on the cost-sharing arrangement, the Secretary-General requests an additional appropriation in the amount of $13,571,800, representing the Secretariat's share of the cost-sharing arrangement for 2019.

III. Conclusion

18. In his report (A/73/424, para. 32), the Secretary-General sets out the action requested of the General Assembly. **Taking into account its comments and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve an additional appropriation, representing a charge against the contingency fund, for the biennium 2018–2019, in the amount of $13,571,800, as a grant to the special purpose trust fund in 2019, under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.**

United Nations A/73/580

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Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Report on the use of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the use of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (A/73/379 and A/73/379/Corr.1). In the report, the Secretary-General provides an update on the activities of the Residual Special Court and information on the use of the approved commitment authority for 2018. In addition, approval by the General Assembly is sought for a subvention for the Residual Special Court in the amount of $2,984,600 for 2019 to enable the Court to continue to carry out its mandate. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 13 November 2018.

2. The report of the Secretary-General was submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/262 A, in which the Assembly, inter alia, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $2.3 million to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the Residual Special Court for 2018 as a bridging financial mechanism, and requested him to report on the use of the commitment authority at the main part of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

II. Background

3. In his report, the Secretary-General recalls that the Residual Special Court was established by the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone concluded in August 2010, with the concurrence of the Security Council, with the mandate to carry out essential residual functions of the Special Court for

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Sierra Leone. The Special Court itself was established in 2002 with the primary objective of prosecuting persons who bore the greatest responsibility for the commission of crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, as well as crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law, committed within the territory of Sierra Leone. The Special Court completed its mandate on 31 December 2013, having indicted 13 individuals and convicted 9, including the former President of Liberia, Charles Ghankay Taylor. Three of the indicted persons have died and one, Johnny Paul Koroma, remains at large (see A/73/379 and A/73/379/Corr.1, para. 6).

4. The Residual Special Court commenced operations on 1 January 2014, immediately following the closure of the Special Court. The functions of the Residual Special Court comprise non-judicial activities, which are ongoing in nature, and judicial activities, which may or may not occur, being contingent on different factors. Non-judicial functions include witness and victim protection and support, supervision of the enforcement of sentences, assistance to national prosecuting authorities, and preservation and management of archives (ibid., para. 12). Among its judicial functions, the Residual Special Court has the power to prosecute the remaining fugitive, Johnny Paul Koroma, if arrested or to refer his case to a competent national jurisdiction for trial. Additionally, the Residual Special Court may conduct reviews of judgments and contempt of court proceedings as well as preventing double jeopardy by monitoring domestic proceedings (ibid., para. 7). The Residual Special Court carries out its functions from its interim seat in The Hague, and from its sub-office in Freetown for witness protection and support and the coordination of defence matters (ibid., para. 8).

5. The Secretary-General indicates that, pursuant to article 3 of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the establishment of the Residual Special Court, the expenses of the Court shall be borne by voluntary contributions from the international community, and that the parties and the Oversight Committee may explore alternative means of funding the Court (ibid., para. 1).

III. Recent activities of the Residual Special Court

6. The Secretary-General provides information on the progress of the implementation of the mandate of the Residual Special Court in section III of his report. With respect to witness protection, the Residual Special Court continued to provide protection services to over 100 witnesses, including by addressing heightened security risks arising out of the elections held in Liberia in October 2017 and in Sierra Leone in March 2018 (ibid., para. 13). With regard to the enforcement of sentences, following the completion of a sentence for one convicted person and the granting of early release for another, there remain six convicts in custody under the supervision of the Residual Special Court: one, Charles Ghankay Taylor, is imprisoned in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and five are imprisoned in Rwanda (ibid., paras. 15, 16 and 18–23). The Residual Special Court has also provided assistance to national authorities for domestic proceedings concerning crimes relating to the conflicts in Sierra Leone and Liberia (ibid., paras. 24–27). Archiving activities have progressed, with the completion of a comprehensive archive index expected by March 2019 (ibid., para. 28). Judges and other officials of the Residual Special Court have participated in activities to promote the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, at no cost to the Residual Special Court, and a jurisprudential legacy project of the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone is anticipated to be launched in December 2018 (ibid., paras. 29–34). Additionally, the Residual Special Court has continued to pursue the tracking and arrest of the remaining accused at large (ibid., para. 17).

IV. Current financial situation, resource requirements and request for a subvention

7. Information on the financial status and resource requirements of the Residual Special Court is contained in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with additional detail, reflected in the annex to the present report, which includes a breakdown by year of voluntary contributions received from donors, subventions received from the regular budget and total requirements and expenditures, as well as unspent balances, since the inception of the Residual Special Court.

Voluntary contributions

8. In section VI of his report, the Secretary-General describes the combined fundraising efforts of the Secretary-General, the Government of Sierra Leone, members of the Oversight Committee and the principal officials of the Residual Special Court. In 2018, these efforts included a letter of appeal by the Secretary-General to all Member States, dozens of fundraising meetings and diplomatic briefings, and, for the first time, press releases and the use of social media to raise awareness of the financial situation of the Court (ibid., paras. 40 and 47–55). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 October 2018, the Residual Special Court had received $5,000 in voluntary contributions, which were utilized to cover costs relating to the fifth plenary meeting of the judges of the Residual Special Court, and pledges amounting to 140,000 euros, of which 130,000 euros were pledged exclusively for judicial functions. The Secretary-General also indicates that there are minimal prospects, if any, for future voluntary contributions (ibid., paras. 55 and 64). **The Committee continues to be concerned about the persistent funding shortages of the Residual Special Court, heightened by the lack of forthcoming contributions, and again emphasizes the ongoing need for intensified fundraising efforts by the Secretary-General, including by broadening the donor base of the Residual Special Court and developing more innovative fundraising approaches.**

9. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Government of Sierra Leone provides in-kind support to the Residual Special Court, in addition to its obligations under the above-mentioned Agreement and its participation in fundraising. These in-kind contributions include: premises and security services in Freetown; assistance with witness protection activities, if needed; and the monitoring of convicted persons who have been granted early release. **The Committee welcomes the provision of in-kind contributions by the Government of Sierra Leone to the Residual Special Court and encourages further cooperation in support of the mandate of the Court, without prejudice to its independence and judicial requirements.**

Resource requirements

10. The Secretary-General indicates that the 2019 budget of the Residual Special Court approved by its Oversight Committee amounts to $2,984,600, consisting of $2,394,900 for non-judicial activities and $589,700 for judicial activities, compared with the approved requirements of $2,965,900 for 2018.

11. The report of the Secretary-General and supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee indicate that resource requirements in the amount of $1,335,900 would provide for: (a) the continuation of the 13 existing full-time non-judicial positions, of which 6 are located in The Hague (1 D-2, 2 P-4, 2 P-2 and 1 P-1) and 7 in Freetown (1 P-4, 1 P-1, 3 National Professional Officer and 2 Local

level); (b) pro rata remuneration of four months for the Prosecutor (Under-Secretary-General) and the Principal Defender (P-4), who work remotely and only as necessary; and (c) one Local level position in The Hague funded through general temporary assistance to provide archiving support (ibid., para. 38). An additional requirement of $160,000 would provide for additional staff in the event of judicial activity, such as proceedings related to contempt of court.

12. With respect to non-staffing requirements, an amount of $429,700 is requested for judicial activities, under compensation to judges ($129,700), travel ($178,000), contractual services ($50,000) and general operating expenses ($72,000). The Advisory Committee notes that while these requirements relate to judicial proceedings that did not take place in previous years and may again not materialize in 2019, they continue to be included in the request for a subvention (see A/71/613, para. 15, and A/72/7/Add.20, para. 15). **In this respect, the Committee recalls the stipulation of the General Assembly on the need for the Residual Special Court to adopt a realistic approach to budgeting reflecting actual needs (see resolution 72/262 A, sect. VIII, para. 5). While recognizing that the occurrence of the judicial functions of the Residual Special Court may not be fully anticipated, the Committee emphasizes that resources for judicial activities should be based on past experiences, best available projections and the identification of further operational efficiencies, without prejudice to the judicial requirements of the Court (see A/71/613, para. 16, and A/72/7/Add.20, para. 15).**

13. With respect to official travel, requirements for 2019 are estimated at $288,000, including $110,000 for non-judicial travel. On the basis of the breakdown of the travel requirements provided to it, the Advisory Committee notes that travel in the amount of $7,500 (or 6.8 per cent of the non-judicial requirements) is planned for fundraising purposes. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, while most fundraising meetings would be held in The Hague, limited fundraising activities by the Prosecutor and the Registrar would take place in New York and Brussels. **Considering the severe scarcity of financial resources, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendations (see A/71/613, para. 18, and A/72/7/Add.20, para. 18) and continues to stress that the Residual Special Court should strictly limit travel requirements to ensure that any travel is directly associated with its core functions.**

14. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the Residual Special Court has continued to implement efficiency measures, such as the use of short-term consultancies, interns and pro bono services to supplement its staff resources as required (see A/73/379 and A/73/379/Corr.1, para. 45). For instance, the Residual Special Court has retained the services of the Auditor General of South Africa to conduct the annual audit of the Court on a pro bono basis. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that this arrangement results in savings of approximately $25,000–$30,000 per annum in professional audit fees.

15. The Secretary-General indicates that the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals has continued to provide logistical and administrative support to the Residual Special Court on a cost-reimbursable basis, pursuant to section VIII, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 72/262 A (ibid., para. 57). On the basis of information provided to it, the Advisory Committee notes that resources in the amount of $379,700 would provide for the cost of sharing an administrative platform with the International Residual Mechanism, the rental of office space within its premises in The Hague and the provision of information technology and other administrative services. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that while no reduction in the cost-sharing arrangement could be achieved at this time, the two institutions remained open to revisiting the arrangement in due course with a view to reducing its cost.

16. The Advisory Committee notes that the General Assembly, in section VIII, paragraph 5, of its resolution 72/262 A, encouraged further efforts to identify efficiencies, without prejudice to the judicial requirements of the Residual Special Court. **The Committee therefore reiterates its view that the Residual Special Court should redouble its efforts to lower the costs of its operations (see A/72/7/Add.20, para. 19).**

Request for a subvention

17. On the basis of the low level of voluntary contributions pledged and received in 2018 and the minimal prospects for additional contributions in the future, the Secretary-General indicates that the Residual Special Court will not have sufficient funds to continue its mandate in 2019. To address the funding shortfall, the Secretary-General is seeking approval by the General Assembly of a subvention from the regular budget in the amount of $2,984,600, which represents the full amount of the requirements of the Residual Special Court for 2019, with the understanding that any contribution received would reduce the utilization of the funding provided by the United Nations (see A/73/379 and A/73/379/Corr.1, paras. 64 and 65).

18. With reference to the annex to the present report, the Advisory Committee notes that the commitment authority authorized by the General Assembly in the amounts of $2,438,500 for 2016 and $2,800,000 for 2017 exceeded the expenditures of the Residual Special Court in the corresponding year, after utilization of the voluntary contributions. According to the information provided, unspent balances amounting to $939,600 in 2016 and $63,600 in 2017 have been carried forward into 2017 and 2018, respectively. **The Committee recalls that the subvention from the regular budget is a bridging financing mechanism approved on the basis of set conditions for the purpose of supplementing insufficient voluntary contributions (see A/72/7/Add.20, para. 26). The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to return any unused balance of commitment authority funds, in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly (see resolution 72/262 A, sect. VIII, para. 6).**

V. Conclusions and recommendations

19. **The Advisory Committee reiterates, once again, its concern regarding the sustainability of voluntary contributions to fund the activities of the Residual Special Court (see A/70/7/Add.30, para. 21, A/71/613, para. 23, and A/72/7/Add.20, para. 23). The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to analyse the options concerning the long-term arrangements for the Residual Special Court in greater detail, including by identifying possible savings and economies of scale, and to report thereon and on the use of the commitment authority.**

20. **The Advisory Committee also notes that, after four consecutive requests for subventions to support the Residual Special Court, the practice is now no longer exceptional in nature. At the same time, the Committee notes that there is still no change to the voluntary nature of the funding arrangements for the Court.**

21. **In view of the projected funding shortfall for 2019, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, as a bridging financing mechanism, in an amount not to exceed $2,537,000 for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019. The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to report, during the main part of its seventy-fourth session, on the use of the commitment authority.**

22. **The Advisory Committee reiterates that the final use of the commitment authority will depend upon the receipt of voluntary contributions from donors. The Committee continues to stress that its recommendations are made on the basis that:**

(a) **The Residual Special Court intensifies its efforts to seek voluntary contributions, including through more innovative fundraising approaches;**

(b) **If voluntary contributions are received in excess of the remaining requirements for the Residual Special Court for 2019, any corresponding funding provided under the commitment authority to the Court for the period would be refunded to the United Nations; and**

(c) **Additional measures for achieving efficiencies in the Residual Special Court are taken.**

Annex

Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone: total funding v. actual expenditure for judicial and non-judicial functions, 2014–2018

(United States dollars)

Year	*Approved budget*[a]	*Actual balance brought forward on 1 January*	*Actual voluntary contributions*	*Interest earned and other adjustments*	*Commitment authority authorized by the General Assembly*	*Actual commitment received*	*Total funding available for the year*	*Commitment authority used*	*Actual full-year expenditure*	*Unspent balance*	*Commitment authority returned*
	(a)	*(b)*	*(c)*	*(d)*	*(e)*	*(f)*	*(g)=(b)+(c)+(d)+(f)*	*(h)*	*(i)*	*(j)=(g)-(i)*	
2014[b]	2 128 700		3 370 268	(125 357)	–	–	3 244 911	–	2 098 315	1 146 596	–
2015	3 454 000	1 146 596	2 681 423	(68 825)	–	–	3 759 194	–	2 569 355	1 189 839	–
2016	3 596 300	1 189 839	27 462	1 834	2 438 500	2 438 500	3 657 635	1 528 219	2 718 058	939 577	–
2017	2 980 500	939 577	164 942	(95 543)	2 800 000	1 805 900	2 814 876	2 681 882	2 751 281	63 595	–
2018[c]	2 965 900	63 595	5 000	(36 000)	2 300 000	2 264 000	2 296 595	–			–

[a] Approved by the Oversight Committee.

[b] The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone commenced its operations on 1 January 2014.

[c] Represents the status as at 30 September 2018. Actual full-year expenditure, total utilization of commitment authority and unspent balance for 2018 will be available at year-end.

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Social development

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Katharina **Konzett-Stoffl** (Austria)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled:

"Social development:

"(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

"(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

"(c) Literacy for life: shaping future agendas"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 1st to 4th meetings, on 2 and 3 October 2018, and considered proposals and took action on the item at its 44th, 50th and 51st meetings, on 6 and 16 November. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes (A/73/61-E/2018/4);

[1] A/C.3/73/SR.1, A/C.3/73/SR.2, A/C.3/73/SR.3, A/C.3/73/SR.4, A/C.3/73/SR.44, A/C.3/73/SR.50 and A/C.3/73/SR.51.

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(b) Report of the Secretary-General on inclusive development for persons with disabilities (A/73/211/Rev.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/73/213);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/73/214);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/73/254);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas and education for democracy" (A/73/292);

(g) Note by the Secretariat on the United Nations 2018 flagship report on disability and development: realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities (A/73/220).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 2 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the representative of the United Nations Volunteers and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization made introductory statements.

5. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Qatar, Australia, Brazil, the European Union, Slovenia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Chile, Namibia, Argentina, Colombia and South Africa.

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.13

6. At its 44th meeting, on 6 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (A/C.3/73/L.13), submitted by Brazil, Chile, Japan and the Russian Federation. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iraq, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the

United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil, also on behalf of Japan, made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Japan, also on behalf of Brazil, made a statement.

9. Also at the 44th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.13 (see para. 31, draft resolution I).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States made a statement.

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.17/Rev.1

11. At its 50th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/73/L.17/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.17 and was submitted by Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China). Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) made a statement.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.17/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 181 to 2 (see para. 31, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South

Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

14. Before the vote, the representative of Egypt made a statement, to which the Chair responded, and the representative of the United States made a statement in explanation of vote. After the vote, the representative of Hungary made a statement.

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.6/Rev.1

15. At its 51st meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities" (A/C.3/73/L.6/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.6 and was submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Myanmar, Namibia, Paraguay, the Philippines, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

16. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines made a statement.

17. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.6/Rev.1 (see para. 31, draft resolution III).

18. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States made a statement.

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.18/Rev.1

19. At its 51st meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/73/L.18/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.18 and was submitted by Canada, Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations

that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Mexico, Monaco and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Subsequently, Austria, Croatia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

21. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement.

22. Also at its 51st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.18/Rev.1 (see para. 31, draft resolution IV).

23. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States made a statement.

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.19/Rev.1

24. At its 51st meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond" (A/C.3/73/L.19/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.19 and was submitted by Belarus, Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan. Subsequently, Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

25. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made a statement.

26. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.19/Rev.1 (see para. 31, draft resolution V).

27. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Austria made a statement, on behalf also of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.14

28. At its 44th meeting, on 6 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas" (A/C.3/73/L.14), submitted by Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Hungary, Japan, Mongolia and Poland. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United

States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

29. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia made a statement and orally revised the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.[2]

30. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.14, as orally revised (see para. 31, draft resolution VI).

[2] See A/C.3/73/SR.44.

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

31. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/129 of 17 December 2015, entitled "Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond",

Welcoming the integration of volunteerism into all relevant issues considered at the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] in which it is acknowledged that volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of Governments and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing that volunteerism can be a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that it can help to expand and mobilize constituencies and engage people in the national planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and that volunteer groups can help to localize the Agenda by providing new areas of interaction between Governments and people for concrete and scalable actions,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development creates unprecedented global and national urgency to accelerate progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action by and between Governments, communities, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and international actors, including the United Nations system,

Acknowledging also the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, acknowledging further the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network, noting the work of other volunteer-involving organizations at the local, national, regional and global levels, and acknowledging the important role of civil society in facilitating volunteering,

Welcoming the publication by the United Nations Volunteers programme of the report entitled *2018 State of the World's Volunteerism Report: The Thread that Binds — Volunteerism and Community Resilience*, which presents new evidence on the role of volunteerism, especially through equitable and inclusive compacts between local volunteers and other communities, actors and organizations in strengthening community resilience, voice and inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[3]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating volunteerism, as appropriate, into the planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] and encourages the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector, in partnership with Member States, to support such efforts and promote a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results;

3. *Encourages* Governments, in partnership with United Nations entities, volunteer-involving organizations, the private sector, civil society, including academia, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to integrate volunteerism into national development strategies, plans and policies, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks or equivalent planning frameworks;

4. *Encourages* the meaningful participation and integration of all people, including youth, older persons, women, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups, into volunteer-involving programmes and projects, with the provision of the appropriate means to leverage the full potential of volunteerism;

5. *Commends* the Member States that highlighted the contributions of volunteers to the Sustainable Development Goals in their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development held in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and encourages all Member States to increasingly cooperate with volunteer-involving and civil society organizations, to include information on the scale, contribution and impact of volunteerism in future voluntary national reviews and engage volunteers for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Goals at the national and subnational levels and as part of wider citizen engagement;

6. *Encourages* all Member States to invest in measuring the scale and contribution of people's voluntary efforts, in line with the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians standard on volunteer work and the International Labour Organization Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work, and to collect and utilize high-quality data disaggregated by sex, age and disability to support and integrate volunteerism into national strategies and to measure its impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7. *Commends* all volunteers globally — formal, informal, community, national, international, online, youth and older volunteers — for their contributions to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Requests* Member States and the United Nations system to work together with volunteer-involving organizations, including from civil society, to support efforts to enhance the protection, security and well-being of volunteers, calls upon States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for volunteers, and encourages the adoption of good practices in the promotion, facilitation and, where applicable, management of volunteerism;

9. *Reaffirms* the institutional arrangements to implement the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which are consistent with and complement existing global review mechanisms on the Sustainable Development Goals and build upon and are complemented by independent forums and processes that maximize the participation, voice and contributions of volunteers, and, in particular:

[3] A/73/254.

(a) Encourages Member States to continue to work with national and local partners to prepare an analysis of volunteering at the national level before the end of 2018;

(b) Welcomes that national-level analysis will be inputs for regional consultations on volunteering in 2019, and requests that these regional consultations be held under the auspices of the regional commissions of the United Nations in the context of the regional forums on sustainable development, providing an opportunity for Member States and partners to discuss evidence and approaches, identify opportunities for addressing knowledge gaps and ensure, among other things, that national and regional inputs into the high-level political forum on sustainable development take account of volunteer contributions to the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Encourages civil society, academia and the private sector, and especially volunteer-involving organizations, to use all existing forums and processes, in accordance with the rules and mandates of such forums and processes, to increase consultations on trends, evidence and approaches on volunteer contributions to the 2030 Agenda and the plan of action;

(d) Requests the United Nations Volunteers programme, and invites the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to jointly organize the global technical meeting to be held in 2020 on the theme "Reimagining volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda", building upon the foundations provided by the processes highlighted above, to further strengthen the engagement and contributions of volunteers with regard to the 2030 Agenda, and requests that this meeting be held as a special event on the margins of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2020;

10. *Recognizes* the United Nations Volunteers programme as the appropriate United Nations entity to support the implementation of the plan of action, and expects the programme to coordinate the work to consolidate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned, promote successful volunteer actions and ensure that the differentiated impact of volunteers on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is documented as part of regular national policy, planning and implementation practices;

11. *Also recognizes* the role of information and communications technologies in expanding innovative forms of volunteering, and encourages Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to support online volunteering, including United Nations online volunteering that provides inclusive technology-enabled global platforms;

12. *Further recognizes* the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers as the resource enabling the United Nations Volunteers programme to support the implementation of the plan of action, as well as develop initiatives that embed the values of volunteerism in the work of Governments and the United Nations system, and encourages Member States in a position to do so to enhance their contributions to the Fund, thereby ensuring continuing activities;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under the item entitled "Social development".

Draft resolution II
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all previous resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, including resolution 72/141 of 19 December 2017,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Welcoming the progress made towards the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action through concerted action at the national, regional and global levels, and expressing its deep concern that, more than 20 years after the convening of the World Summit for Social Development, progress has been slow and uneven, and major gaps remain,

Welcoming also the adoption, in its entirety, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] in which it is recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Reaffirming the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities within and among countries, raising basic standards of living and fostering equitable and inclusive social development and sustainable management of natural resources,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission, given its mandates and experience in promoting people-centred inclusive development, will report on social aspects related to the agreed main theme of the

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] Resolution 70/1.

Council in order to contribute to its work,[4] including by offering inputs regarding the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a holistic and inclusive manner,

Welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission for Social Development will consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Council in order to contribute to its work, and that the priority theme for the 2019 session, which shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council, will be "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies",

Recalling the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council on the annual theme "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities" and the ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies",

Reaffirming that the Declaration on the Right to Development[5] also informs the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with other relevant instruments, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[6] Agenda 2063 adopted by the African Union and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,[7] and reaffirming also the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into the reduction of inequalities, eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these strategies and policies should constitute fundamental components of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including inequality and poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work for all should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed, and noting in this regard that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important role to play in achieving the objective of social protection and elimination of inequalities, as reaffirmed in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization,

Recognizing that although income inequality between countries remains at a high level, it has been declining, while trends in income inequality within countries present a mixed picture, with many countries experiencing a significant rise in recent decades and others having successfully reduced both income and non-income inequalities, although their levels remain high, and emphasizing that addressing inequality in all its dimensions is essential to eradicating poverty, advancing social development and achieving sustainable development,

[4] Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/6, para. 3.
[5] Resolution 41/128, annex.
[6] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[7] A/63/538-E/2009/4, annex.

Recognizing also that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

Recognizing further that the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis have the potential to undermine progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty and the feminization of poverty persist in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that the extent and manifestations thereof, such as hunger and malnutrition, vulnerability to trafficking in persons, forced and child labour, disease, lack of adequate shelter and illiteracy, are heightened in developing countries and particularly severe in least developed countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Stressing the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets,

Stressing also the importance of establishing a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, supporting all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States and respect their territorial integrity and political independence, and refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recognizing that terrorism, trafficking in arms, organized crime, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, politically motivated killing and genocide pose increasing challenges to States and societies in the attainment of conditions conducive to social development, including reduction of inequalities, and that they further present urgent and compelling reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity,

Recognizing also all recent efforts to promote meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in building their societies, including the convening of the first World Youth Forum in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 4 to 10 November 2017 as a platform for discussion among youth from all over the world,

Noting with concern that, according to the report of the International Labour Organization entitled "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2017", although there has been a modest economic recovery, youth unemployment remains high and employment quality remains a concern, and young people are three times as likely as adults to be unemployed, which constitutes a serious global problem,

Recognizing that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, advances have been made in addressing and promoting social integration, including through the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[8] the World Programme of Action for

[8] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Youth,[9] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[10] the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[11] and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[12]

Welcoming the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), which urges Member States to promote the social development of people of African descent, particularly women and girls, by eradicating any form of discrimination, ensuring access to quality education and eliminating challenges and specific risks with regard to health,

Reaffirming the commitment to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social protection and social security, and noting the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[13]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[1] in particular to promote equality and social justice, eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all, and recognizes that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals are mutually reinforcing;

3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] and its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced, holistic and integrated manner;

4. *Recognizes* that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, and invites Member States to develop comprehensive, integrated and coherent poverty eradication strategies that effectively address the structural causes of poverty and inequality with an emphasis on job-rich growth; address and meet the basic human needs of people living in poverty; ensure their access to quality education, nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and other public social services, access to employment and decent work for all, as well as access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology and knowledge; and ensure their participation in decision-making on social and economic development policies and programmes in this regard;

5. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,[14] the 2005 World Summit, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, in its Doha Declaration on Financing

[9] Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[11] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[12] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[13] A/73/214.

[14] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

for Development,[15] the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[6] and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, have reinforced the priority and urgency of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions within the United Nations development agenda;

6. *Recognizes* the complex character of the ongoing food insecurity situation, including food price volatility, as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters, the lack of the necessary technology and armed conflicts, and also recognizes that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen food insecurity;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting the African Union's development framework, Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, which is the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development[16] and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

8. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be inclusive and distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

9. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities noting the role of sports in this regard, and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

10. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive and people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity and inclusion in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

11. *Supports* the development of vertical and horizontal models of distribution of financial resources to decrease inequalities across subnational territories, within urban centres and between urban and rural areas, as well as to promote integrated and balanced territorial development, and reaffirms the importance of improving the

[15] Resolution 63/239, annex.
[16] A/57/304, annex.

transparency of data on spending and resource allocation as a tool for assessing progress towards equity and spatial integration;

12. *Acknowledges* that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection and to address the issues of illicit financial flows and corruption;

13. *Stresses* that international trade and stable financial systems can be effective tools to create favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and some trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth, particularly in developing countries, that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels and the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the reduction of inequalities, the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition and for addressing the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, and in this regard also stresses the importance of economic, social and cultural rights and the importance of the principles of non-discrimination, inclusivity and meaningful participation for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development;

14. *Acknowledges* that inequalities persist within and among countries, posing significant challenges to social cohesion, reaffirms that the eradication of poverty, promotion of prosperity, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the reduction of inequality within and among countries are fundamental to achieving sustainable development for all, and that this requires collective and transformative efforts to leave no one behind and put the furthest behind first, and adapt institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of inequality and poverty and the inherent interlinkages between different Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard:

Inequality in access to opportunities

(a) Calls upon Governments, the international community and other relevant actors to ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard;

(b) Encourages Governments and the international community to learn from the experiences and good practices that have successfully reduced inequalities and adopt an appropriate mix of policies, including macroeconomic, fiscal, wage, employment, labour market, financial inclusion and social protection policies, that have proven to be effective in promoting inclusive growth and progressively reducing inequality in opportunities and access to basic services, and ensure the synergies between those policies;

(c) Urges Member States to strengthen social policies, as appropriate, paying particular attention to the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized social groups, inter alia, women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and other persons in vulnerable situations, as well as to address all forms of violence in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, and discrimination, including xenophobia, against them, to ensure that these groups are not left behind, and recognizes that violence increases the challenges faced by States

and societies in the achievement of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration;

(d) Reaffirms the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that they are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition, poverty and disease, to strengthening policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life as equal partners and to improving the access of women to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers and allocating adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, including in the workplace, inter alia, by addressing wage inequality, ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, reconciliation of work and private life for both men and women, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

(e) Recognizes that youth participation is important for development, and urges Member States and United Nations entities, in consultation with youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular, while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Inequality in access to basic services

(f) Reaffirms the right to education, and calls upon the international community to provide universal access to inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education at all levels — early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training — as well as to promote the completion of primary and secondary education so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;

(g) Recognizes that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education and vocational training and in order to enable millions of people to acquire skills for decent work, and takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and the recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;

(h) Urges Member States to promote and respect women's and girls' right to education throughout the life cycle at all levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, and eliminate gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education, promote financial literacy and inclusion, digital literacy and entrepreneurship, ensure that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships and adopt positive action to build women's and girls' leadership skills and influence, and adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee the safety of women and girls in the school environment and that support women and girls with disabilities at all levels of education and training;

(i) Recognizes the responsibility of Governments to urgently and significantly scale up efforts to accelerate the transition towards universal access to affordable and quality health-care services, and calls upon Member States to accelerate progress towards achieving the goal of universal health coverage, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to

nationally determined sets of quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services and medicines does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

Inequality in access to nutrition and food

(j) Reaffirms the right to food and acknowledges the importance of promoting sustainable farming and agriculture and, recognizing the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in providing food security, reducing inequality in access to food and nutrition, calls upon Governments to ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round;

(k) Encourages Governments to end all forms of malnutrition, including the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons;

(l) Invites Governments to double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment;

Inequality in access to social protection

(m) Urges Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to establish nationally appropriate social protection that supports labour market participation and addresses and reduces inequality and social exclusion, and social protection systems and floors, including through streamlining fragmented social protection systems/programmes, ensuring that such programmes are gender-responsive and disability-sensitive, and progressively extend their coverage to all people throughout their life cycle, including for workers in the informal economy, invites the International Labour Organization, upon request, to support government efforts to strengthen social protection strategies and policies on extending social protection and social security coverage, urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, including the implementation of social protection floors, which can provide a systemic base upon which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the International Labour Organization recommendation on social protection floors;

Inequality in access to employment and decent work

(n) Urges Governments to work closely with all relevant stakeholders to create an environment conducive to the creation of new job opportunities and develop human resources development strategies premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link between education, health, training and employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy;

(o) Stresses the need to address challenges faced by those working in informal or vulnerable jobs, by investing in the creation of more decent work opportunities, including providing access to decent jobs in the formal sector in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition

from the informal to the formal economy, and enhancing the productive capacities of people, and strengthen labour institutions and employment and labour-market policies, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each country and by promoting close partnerships with relevant stakeholders;

(p) Urges Member States to strengthen, as appropriate, the authority and capacity of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, which should be placed at the highest possible level of government, with sufficient funding, and to mainstream a gender perspective across all relevant national and local institutions, including labour, economic and financial government agencies, in order to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(q) Also urges Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work and to increase the prospects for integrating youth in the sustainable labour market, and through increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and encourages Member States to invest in education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth and to request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

(r) Recognizes that promoting full employment and decent work for all also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men, and girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health systems and applying international labour standards, and urges States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education, inter alia, in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of women in the different stages of their lives;

Inequality in access to technologies

(s) Recognizes that substantial digital divides exist between countries and regions, and between developed and developing countries, particularly Africa and least developed countries, and urges policymakers and regulators to work together to provide people with affordable access to technologies, including information and communications technologies and digital skills, through effective private-public partnership at multiple levels in order to advance investment in infrastructure and training, facilitated by cross-sectoral collaboration;

Inequality in access to infrastructure

(t) Recognizes that important environmental and infrastructure inequalities persist, with people living in poverty overwhelmingly suffering from the effects of pollution, climate change and environmental degradation, calls upon the international community, including Member States, to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequality, including gender inequality, on poverty, emphasizes the importance of structural transformation that leads to inclusive and sustainable industrialization for employment creation and poverty reduction, investing in sustainable agriculture and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, enhancing interconnectivity and achieving access to energy, and improving access to financial services, as well as promoting decent rural employment, improving access to quality education, promoting quality health care, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, expanding social protection coverage, climate change mitigation and adaptation and combating inequality and social exclusion;

(u) Looks forward to the convening of the third Global Infrastructure Forum in Bali, Indonesia, on 13 October 2018, and in this regard recalls, as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, that a greater range of voices should be heard, particularly from developing countries, to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps, in particular in, inter alia, African countries, and that it will highlight opportunities for investment and cooperation and work to ensure that investments are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable;

Urban-rural/spatial inequality

(v) Recognizes that steps should be taken to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization, and also recognizes the need to prioritize a financial infrastructure that provides access to a variety of sustainable products and services for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship cooperatives and other forms of social enterprises, as well as investing in and contributing to sustainable agricultural development, including by boosting smallholder productivity through measures attracting responsible private investment, improving the quality and quantity of rural extension services and the access to the necessary resources, assets, markets and cross-cutting agricultural technologies, and promoting the participation and entrepreneurship of women, including smallholder women farmers, as means to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all, as well as to pay special attention to the development of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in rural areas, and securing their safe interaction with larger economies;

(w) Reaffirms the New Urban Agenda,[17] which envisages cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in

[17] Resolution 71/256, annex.

areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air energy, air quality and livelihoods;

(x) Encourages Member States to pursue social and economic policies to support the creation of farm and off-farm jobs, as appropriate, especially labour-intensive and higher-productivity jobs in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and recognizes that redistributive land policies and improved access to formal credit markets through greater financial inclusion, as well as structural transformation policies that help to shift labour to high-productivity manufacturing and services sectors, may be considered by Member States within their national contexts and legislation;

Environmental inequality

(y) Recognizes that the negative effects of climate change and environmental disasters have differential impacts, with people in vulnerable situations, poor and rural communities and low-income countries being disproportionately exposed to floods, droughts and other natural disasters, and that they have a lower capacity and assets to recover from such external shocks and expresses concern that climate change may cause high and volatile food and commodity prices and hit them hardest;

(z) Acknowledges the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of effectively enforcing labour laws with regard to labour relations and working conditions of migrant workers, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

Social development actors

15. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations, the public sector and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors within countries are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and acknowledges the role of public and private sectors as employers and enablers for the effective generation of new investments, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including through partnerships with the United Nations system, civil society and academia;

16. *Stresses* the importance of the policy space and leadership of national Governments for implementing policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, in particular in the areas of human rights, social expenditure and social protection programmes, and calls upon international financial institutions and donors to support developing countries in achieving their social development, in line with their national priorities and strategies, by, among other things, providing debt relief within the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

17. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, emphasizes that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights, applicable laws and international principles and standards, to operate

transparently, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, and to refrain from affecting the well-being of peoples, and also emphasizes the need to take further concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption, and to prevent human rights abuses;

18. *Stresses* the importance of stability in global financial systems and sound national economic policies to creating an enabling international environment to promote economic growth and social development and further stresses the importance of promoting corporate social responsibility and accountability, and encourages responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,[18] invites the private sector to take into account not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of its undertakings, and underlines the importance of the International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;

International cooperation

19. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

20. *Underlines* that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, recognizes its increased importance, different history and particularities, and stresses that it should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and that it should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

21. *Emphasizes* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources, and that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance (ODA), is to catalyse the mobilization of additional resources from other public and private sources, and notes that ODA providers have reaffirmed their respective commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries;

22. *Welcomes* the increase in the volume of ODA since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, expresses its concern that many countries still fall short of their ODA commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains crucial, commends those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries, urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards the ODA targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertaking to meet

[18] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries;

23. *Stresses* the essential role that ODA plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

24. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives taken on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization and the Advance Market Commitment for Vaccines;

25. *Encourages* Governments to support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all;

26. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

27. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

28. *Stresses* that the international community should support national commitments to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions with the goal to ensure that no one is left behind, and recognizes the need for greater international cooperation to further reduce inequality between and within countries and increase capacity-building support to countries with the most constrained resources to ensure that social expenditures meet certain targets;

29. *Reconfirms* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes the need to take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation;

30. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, shall review, on

a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up to and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council thereon;

31. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[2] and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

32. *Further reaffirms* the mandate of the Commission for Social Development and that social development is a cross-cutting element in discussions surrounding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, civil society and relevant stakeholders to enhance their support for the high-level political forum on sustainable development as it builds upon the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission, while reflecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the interlinkages between them;

33. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit,[19] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

34. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner; to mainstream the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all into their policies, programmes and activities, as well as to support efforts of Member States aimed at achieving this objective, and invites financial institutions to support efforts in this regard;

35. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, the funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,[20] to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

36. *Calls upon* the Commission for Social Development to continue to address inequality in all its dimensions, in the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and invites the Commission to emphasize the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences,

[19] Resolution 60/1, para. 68.

[20] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

37. *Looks forward* to the convening by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level thematic debate on the issue of inclusive development and inequality within and among countries before the meeting of the high-level political forum in 2019;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", with particular focus on strengthening international cooperation for social development, with particular attention to universal and equitable access to education and health care, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

Draft resolution III
Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/165 of 19 December 2016 and its previous relevant resolutions, including those on all relevant internationally agreed development goals, as well as relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, and stressing the need for their full application and implementation for persons with disabilities,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[1] which it adopted on 13 December 2006 and which entered into force on 3 May 2008, a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, recognizing that it is both a human rights and a development instrument, encouraging its ratification by Member States and its implementation by States parties, and taking note of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[2]

Reaffirming also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] which is inclusive of persons with disabilities and in which Member States pledged to leave no one behind, and acknowledging that Member States, while implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind,

Recalling all development and operational frameworks in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling also the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[4] the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[5] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,[7] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[8] the outcome document of the 2016 high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly on HIV and AIDS, entitled "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030",[9] the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[10] the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, launched during the first World Humanitarian Summit, and the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),[11]

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.
[3] Resolution 70/1.
[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[5] Resolution 65/1.
[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.
[7] Resolution 69/283, annex II.
[8] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[9] Resolution 70/266, annex.
[10] Resolution 69/2.
[11] Resolution 71/256, annex.

which contain references to the rights, participation, perspectives and well-being of persons with disabilities in development efforts,

Recalling further the outcome document of its high-level meeting on the overarching theme on "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond"[12] held on 23 September 2013 at the level of Heads of State and Government,

Noting that the Commission for Social Development decided to review, beginning at its fifty-seventh session, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[13] and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[14] by proceeding to the review of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,[15]

Reaffirming the follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the inclusion of persons with disabilities as stakeholders in its work, as set out in resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013,

Noting the panel discussion organized by the President of the General Assembly held on 13 June 2016 to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on disability and development and to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Taking note of the preparation of the United Nations 2018 flagship report on disability and development: realization of Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities, and of the note by the Secretariat which provides an overview of the flagship report,[16]

Recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population, or 1 billion people, of whom an estimated 80 per cent live in developing countries, and that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by poverty,

Acknowledging the Secretary-General's decision to conduct an institutional review of the current United Nations approach to mainstreaming disability across its operations, which would inform the preparation of an internal policy and action plan to strengthen the ability of the United Nations system to mainstream disabilities, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities, including women, children, youth, persons with albinism, indigenous peoples and older persons, continue to be subject to multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination, and noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability, in particular the rights of persons with disabilities, as an integral part of the development agenda, major challenges remain,

[12] Resolution 68/3.
[13] A/37/351/Add.1 and A/37/351/Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).
[14] Resolution 48/96, annex.
[15] Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/3.
[16] A/73/220.

Concerned that women and girls with disabilities are often among the most vulnerable and marginalized in society and are at a greater risk of experiencing all forms of violence, and recognizing the need for national development strategies and efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, the elimination of all forms of violence and the realization of their human rights,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters and in their aftermath, and that they may require specific protection and safety measures, recognizing also the need to support further participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development of such measures and decision-making processes relating thereto, in order to ensure disability-inclusive risk reduction and humanitarian action, and recognizing further the special coping mechanisms developed by persons with disabilities to withstand the effects of conflict and natural disasters,

Recognizing also the contribution of families towards ensuring the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, and that persons with disabilities and their families should receive social protection and assistance to enable the family and its members to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities and to ensure a safe and supportive family environment for persons with disabilities,

Recognizing further the collective responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality, non-discrimination and equity at the global level, and in this sense stressing the duty of Member States to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on persons with disabilities and human rights and development,

Concerned that access to health-care services remains a challenge for persons with disabilities, who are more than three times as likely as persons without disabilities to be unable to get health care when they need it, owing to, inter alia, a lack of financial resources and inaccessible public transport and facilities,

Recognizing that eliminating discrimination, ensuring equal access to social protection floors and safety nets and enhancing responsive support and services to persons with disabilities are critical to promoting inclusive development for all,

Recognizing also that, while considerable progress has been made, the mainstreaming of disabilities, including the rights of persons with disabilities, remains a global challenge, and recognizing that further efforts are needed to strengthen the normative and operational links to effectively integrate the rights, participation, perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities in development policies and programmes, and, in particular, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Noting the need for Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further strengthen the normative framework on disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the pledge of "leaving no one behind" of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to consider disability as a global issue, cutting across the pillars of the United Nations,

Stressing its resolve to build inclusive societies and, in this regard, the importance of mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives, needs and well-being of persons with disabilities into all relevant strategies and programmes for sustainable development, and reaffirming the valued existing and potential

contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities,

Recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities with respect to full, meaningful and effective participation and inclusion in society, and therefore recognizing also that persons with disabilities should have the opportunity to be actively involved in all aspects of public, political, economic, cultural, social and family life, on an equal basis with all others, including in decision-making processes about policies and programmes, including national and international development programmes, with a view to ensuring that such policies and programmes are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities,

Underlining the need for urgent action by all stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development plans, strategies and actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support,

Stressing the need for capacity development efforts aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure equal access to quality education, full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development, volunteering opportunities and vocational and entrepreneurial training in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence,

Recognizing the importance of promoting accessibility, mobility and road safety for persons with disabilities in the context of cities and other human settlements, and that accessibility is a means of achieving inclusive society and development,

Recognizing also the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace, and stressing that major international sporting events, such as the international Paralympic Games, should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship and tolerance, where persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities, on an equal basis with others, and where the spirit of fair play prevails, violence is banned and ethical principles are upheld,

Concerned that the continuing lack of reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, presents an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that is inclusive of persons with disabilities, recognizing that high-quality, timely, accessible, reliable and disaggregated data are critical to measuring progress and ensuring that no one is left behind, and further noting the need for enhancing capacity-building support to developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of such data,

Stressing the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics,[17] and their updates, encouraging ongoing efforts to improve data collection in order to disaggregate data with regard to persons with disabilities by sex, age and disability and underlining the need for internationally comparable data, such as but not limited to the United Nations Children's Fund Module on Child Functioning and the tools

[17] Such as the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.15) and the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8).

and materials produced by the Washington Group, to assess progress on development policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities,

Concerned that the lack of high-quality data required to provide viable baselines and measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities poses a significant challenge to effectively monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for persons with disabilities, and in this regard welcoming the call for the disaggregation of data by disability in the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes the need to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data to measure progress in the implementation of the Goals for persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Inclusive development for persons with disabilities" on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 71/165 of 19 December 2016 and 68/3 of 23 September 2013;[18]

2. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have submitted information on progress made towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including on specific priorities for action, and data and analysis on persons with disabilities, and urges Member States and relevant United Nations entities to submit information for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

3. *Recalls* Human Rights Council resolution 26/20 of 27 June 2014,[19] in which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, which included making concrete recommendations on how to better promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

4. *Welcomes* the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes that their participation is integral to the full and inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have drafted strategies outlining their way forward in implementing and monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or are in the process of doing so, and encourages States, with the support of relevant stakeholders, to encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of these strategies and ensure that the strategies are inclusive of persons with disabilities and respect, protect and promote their rights, bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[2]

6. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, regional integration organizations and financial institutions to make a concerted effort to include persons with disabilities and to integrate the principles of non-discrimination, accessibility and inclusion into the monitoring and evaluation of the sustainable development goals;

7. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, in cooperation with women and girls with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, to design and implement policies and programmes to fulfil the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and to ensure that the

[18] A/73/211/Rev.1.

[19] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is inclusive of and accessible to women and girls with disabilities;

8. *Also urges* Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, in cooperation with persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, to design and implement policies and programmes to fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities, including through developing, reviewing and implementing inclusive policies to address the historical, structural and underlying causes and risk factors of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, and to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

9. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to support cooperation and to further improve coordination among existing international processes and instruments in order to advance a disability-inclusive global agenda, and to facilitate cross-learning and the sharing of information, practices, tools and resources that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

10. *Reaffirms* that social integration and economic policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health-care services, including for mental health, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

11. *Affirms* that persons with disabilities, including children, have the right to [illegible] affordable education and lifelong learning opportunities on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and urges Member States to ensure full access to education and lifelong learning opportunities for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others by taking appropriate steps through the provision of information in accessible and alternative communication formats, reasonable accommodation and other support, as required;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and response, recognizes the need for their inclusion in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and the transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, and also recognizes the disproportionate impact of disasters on women and girls with disabilities;

13. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders to strengthen ongoing efforts and coordination in the humanitarian, disaster and development spheres towards disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action so as to strengthen resilience, better mitigate risks and support pathways towards recovery and development, including during humanitarian emergencies, for persons with disabilities, and to establish partnerships and networks in the disaster risk reduction and humanitarian domains;

14. *Urges* Member States to ensure that persons with disabilities and their families, including women and girls, have access to a range of support services, information in accessible formats and education, including on how to prevent, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse, as well as how to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular children, have a safe and supportive family environment;

15. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

16. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations and mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and the regional commissions to make all efforts to engage with and ensure accessibility for the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, in development processes and decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels;

17. *Encourages* the Commission on Social Development, within its mandate, to continue to provide its relevant inputs regarding persons with disabilities to the Economic and Social Council and to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as appropriate, in order to support the relevant discussions on persons with disabilities in the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

18. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt a national disability strategy that can be operationalized, including through measurable and appropriate targets and indicators, and that assigns responsibility to and incorporates the views of a broad range of stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

19. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to take into account the rights, participation, perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others in ensuring that all development policies and programmes, including those regarding poverty eradication, discrimination and the elimination of all forms of violence and abuse for women and girls with disabilities, social protection, full and productive employment and decent work, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion, as well as urban and rural planning and accessible community and housing development, including the objectives and principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Goals of the 2030 Agenda, are translated into concrete actions;

20. *Encourages* Member States, international development institutions and other stakeholders, including those in the private sector, to promote accessibility, including through the application of universal design in all aspects of urban and rural development, including the planning, design and construction of physical and virtual environments, public spaces, transportation and public services, as well as to promote access to information and communication, including information and communications technologies and systems, to ensure that accessibility is promoted to achieve inclusive societies and development;

21. *Encourages* Member States to eliminate barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing water, sanitation and hygiene, including physical, institutional, social and attitudinal barriers, and recognizing that assistive technologies help in making water, sanitation and hygiene accessible;

22. *Urges* Member States to strive to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to rehabilitation and other independent living services and assistive technologies to enable them to maximize their well-being and realize their independence and full participation in society;

23. *Urges* Member States and regional and local governments to promote appropriate measures in cities and other human settlements that facilitate the access of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment of cities, in particular to public spaces, public transport, housing, workplaces, water and sanitation, education and health facilities, public information and communication (including information and communications technologies and systems) and other facilities and services open or provided to the public in both rural and urban areas to reduce the inequalities and expedite inclusive and sustainable development for persons with disabilities;

24. *Urges* Member States, at the local, regional and national levels, to improve road safety for persons with disabilities and to integrate road safety into sustainable mobility and transport infrastructure planning and design in cities and other human settlements;

25. *Stresses* the importance of enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities and of promoting sports for athletes with disabilities, without discrimination of any kind;

26. *Welcomes* the contributions made to the trust fund for the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in this regard encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support its objectives, including by providing voluntary contributions;

27. *Requests* the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in particular to developing countries, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing international guidelines on disability statistics, to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities;

28. *Encourages* the Statistical Commission, within existing resources, to update guidelines for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, and also encourages the United Nations system, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, to strengthen coherence and coordination across the United Nations system in order to promote the availability of internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant data on disability or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development;

29. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to expedite the mainstreaming of data on disability into official statistics, including by collecting data disaggregated by sex, age and disability status using appropriate measurement tools, including, as appropriate, the UNICEF Module on Child Functioning and the tools produced by the Washington Group, by examining underlying concepts, purposes and advantages of existing relevant data collection tools and instruments and urging all relevant stakeholders to work with the United Nations to provide urgently needed baseline data for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities, to strengthen national capacities in that regard and to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States;

30. *Takes note* of the multi-stakeholder panel discussion entitled "Towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable development: an evidence-based approach to the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda", held on 31 January 2018 during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development, and recognizes the importance of undertaking similar discussions and related initiatives in the future and the continued inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the meetings of the Commission for Social Development;

31. *Decides* to change the title of sub-item (b) under social development on the agenda of the General Assembly to read: "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family";

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with all relevant United Nations entities, to submit information to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution and of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities,[4] and to make appropriate recommendations to further strengthen implementation;

33. *Welcomes* the launch by the Secretary-General of the 2018 United Nations flagship report on disability and development on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2018, and, recognizing that high-quality, timely, accessible, reliable and disaggregated data are critical to measuring progress and ensuring that no one is left behind, requests that data collection and analysis continue with a view to informing policymaking, and decides to discuss, at its seventy-fifth session, how best to present these data and findings, including through a flagship report;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the relevant offices in the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and other relevant offices, have adequate human and financial resources for the fulfilment of their tasks with respect to their work in mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives, needs and well-being of persons with disabilities into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the decision-making processes that impact them.

Draft resolution IV
Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration[1] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,[2] its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006, 62/130 of 18 December 2007, 63/151 of 18 December 2008, 64/132 of 18 December 2009, 65/182 of 21 December 2010, 66/127 of 19 December 2011, 67/139 and 67/143 of 20 December 2012, 68/134 of 18 December 2013, 69/146 of 18 December 2014, 70/164 of 17 December 2015, 71/164 of 19 December 2016 and 72/144 of 19 December 2017,

Recognizing that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons,

Noting the recent regional developments on the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons, including the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa,

Noting also that, between 2017 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 46 per cent, from 962 million to 1.4 billion, globally outnumbering youth, as well as children under the age of 10,[5] and that this increase will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, and recognizing that greater attention needs to be paid to the specific challenges affecting older persons, including in the field of human rights,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions on ageing, specifically resolution 58.16 of 25 May 2005 on strengthening active and healthy ageing,[6] which stressed the important role of public health policies and programmes in enabling the rapidly growing number of older persons to remain in good health and maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies, resolution 65.3 of 25 May 2012 on strengthening non-communicable disease policies to promote active ageing,[7] which recognized that population ageing is among the major factors contributing to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases and noted the importance of lifelong health-promotion and disease-prevention activities, and resolution 69.3 of 29 May 2016, entitled

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.
[3] A/73/213.
[4] Resolution 70/1.
[5] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: 2017 Revision*.
[6] See World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1.
[7] See World Health Organization, document WHA65/2012/REC/1.

"Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life",[3]

Acknowledging that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are confronting a double burden of fighting emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, in parallel with the increasing threat of non-communicable diseases, and expressing concern about the impact on older persons,

Concerned that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for preventive, curative, palliative and specialized care,

Deeply concerned that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and noting with concern the high incidence of poverty among them, particularly older single women,

Recognizing the essential contribution that older persons can continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing also the importance of the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights,

Concerned about the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may create additional vulnerabilities for older persons and affect their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and noting that older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from gender inequality,

Recognizing that the prevalence of disability increases with age and that many older persons live with a disability,

Recognizing also that the social exclusion of older persons is a complex process involving the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services as people age, and the inability of older persons to participate in societal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people across the varied and multiple domains of society, and that it affects both the quality of life of older persons and the equity and cohesion of an ageing society as a whole, with considerable implications for the enjoyment by older persons of their human rights,

Acknowledging the importance of exploring ways to increase the visibility of and attention to the specific challenges faced by older persons in the global development policy framework, including identifying possible gaps and how best to address them,

Recognizing the successful conclusion of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action and the results achieved at the international, regional and national levels, and acknowledging in that regard the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-sixth session, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2018/6 of 17 April 2018,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration[1] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;[2]

2. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards an age-inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach to improving the

[3] See World Health Organization, document WHA69/2016/REC/1.

well-being of older persons, and in this regard encourages Member States to seize this opportunity to take into account issues of relevance to older persons in their efforts to promote the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Recognizes* that the major challenges faced by older persons undermine their social, economic and cultural participation;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to take effective measures against ageism and to view older persons as active contributors to society and not as passive receivers of care and assistance and an impending burden on welfare systems and economies, while promoting and protecting their human rights;

5. *Recognizes* the challenges related to the enjoyment of all human rights that older persons face in different areas and that those challenges require in-depth analysis and action to address protection gaps, and calls upon all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons, including by progressively taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, as well as social isolation and loneliness, to provide social protection, access to food and housing, health-care services, employment, legal capacity and access to justice and to address issues related to social integration and gender inequality by mainstreaming the rights of older persons in sustainable development strategies, in urban policies and in poverty reduction strategies, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational solidarity for social development;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and stresses the importance of close coordination between the work of the Independent Expert and the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of their respective mandates and those of other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, and relevant United Nations bodies and treaty bodies;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert issued at the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council,[9] and encourages Member States to be mindful of the recommendations contained therein;

8. *Invites* Member States to continue to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, including within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group;

9. *Encourages* Governments to actively address, through national, regional and international efforts, issues that affect older persons and to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

10. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies, legislation and regulations, to systematically review and amend these, where appropriate, if they discriminate against older persons, especially on the basis of age, and to take appropriate measures to prevent discrimination against older persons in, inter alia, employment, social protection and the provision of social, health-care and long-term care services;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to promote, in accordance with their national priorities, equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe,

[9] A/HRC/39/50.

nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, health-care services and family planning, education, culture and information and communications technologies, and to ensure that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of older persons, while recognizing that planning for and providing opportunities for making cities inclusive of older persons' economic and social participation is an important dimension of the construction of sustainable cities;

12. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the multidimensional nature of the vulnerability of older persons to poverty and economic insecurity, including through the promotion of good health, care and well-being, in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level;

13. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication measures, women's empowerment strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider expanding, in accordance with domestic legislation and policies, the reach of sustainable pension schemes, including, but not limited to, strategies such as social pensions, and increasing their benefits, with a view to ensuring income security in old age;

15. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and implement long-term care strategies and to conduct research on good practices of care strategies, recognizing and supporting both paid and unpaid care work for the benefit of older persons, in accordance with the World Health Organization global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020,[8] and to further promote long-term care as a positive social and economic investment and a source of employment expansion;

16. *Further encourages* Member States to promote terms and conditions of care work guided by International Labour Organization standards for all care workers, including but not limited to migrants, and to adopt measures to tackle the gender and age stereotypes for care work;

17. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacities to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action by considering and devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

18. *Recommends* that Member States increase efforts to raise awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action and identify key priority areas for its implementation, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational family interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacities, as well as promoting and supporting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions to their families, communities and societies and working with the regional commissions, as needed, and enlisting the help of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in seeking increased attention for ageing issues;

19. *Encourages* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling the follow-up of national plans of action on ageing, and also encourages Governments to strengthen existing networks of national focal points on ageing;

20. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies that create national policy ownership and consensus-building;

21. *Recommends* that Governments be inclusive in involving older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect them, including through simple consultative mechanisms to co-research or co-design such policies and programmes with or by older persons and to take due account of involving those who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are particularly vulnerable to high incidences of poverty and social exclusion;

22. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect age-disaggregated data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated also, when necessary, by other relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to improve assessment of the situation of older persons, recognizes that the data revolution presents new opportunities and challenges for the use of new data to help with the measurement of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, and to ensure that no one is left behind, and in this regard welcomes the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data and the consideration of its work;

23. *Encourages* States parties to existing international human rights instruments, where appropriate, to address the situation of older persons more explicitly in their reports, and encourages treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedures mandate holders to pay due regard to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, particularly in their concluding observations and reports, respectively;

24. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

25. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women and older persons with disabilities;

26. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

27. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, where applicable;

28. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, sex or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, women and persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive images of older persons;

29. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people, including older persons, have access, without discrimination, to every country's determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services does not expose older persons to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized;

30. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and to develop health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing health systems;

31. *Recognizes* the importance of training, education and capacity-building of the health workforce, including paid care workers and unpaid caregivers, for home-based care;

32. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of age is incorporated and upheld in health and other policies and programmes and that the implementation of such policies and programmes is regularly monitored;

33. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intersectoral policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, for the integrated management of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including health promotion, health-care services and social welfare services, in order to address the needs of older persons;

34. *Encourages* Member States to provide services and support to older persons, including grandparents, who have assumed responsibility for children who were abandoned or whose parents are deceased, have migrated or are otherwise unable to care for their dependants;

35. *Calls upon* Member States to address the issue of the well-being of and adequate health-care services for older persons, as well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, in particular older women, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and by developing coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks to address these problems and their underlying factors;

36. *Also calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;[10]

37. *Stresses* that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation, in particular North-South cooperation, which is complemented by South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation, is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of such assistance as well as the provision of financial assistance;

38. *Encourages* Member States to establish or to strengthen strategic approaches and policy options in relation to the physical and mental health of older persons in the light of new and emerging disease patterns, notably non-communicable diseases, as well as in relation to increased life expectancy, with particular attention to promoting good health and addressing health needs across a care continuum, including prevention, detection and diagnosis, management and rehabilitation, treatment and palliative care, with the aim of achieving comprehensive health-care coverage for older persons;

[10] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

39. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable and adequate social and economic support for older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

40. *Also encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

41. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing, as well as to include indicators that provide an evidence base for the equitable delivery and effective monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda[11] and national policymaking, as well as to gain a better understanding of how to promote ageing in a way that is not adversely affected by rapid urbanization and gentrification;

42. *Recognizes* the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledges the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, through the regional commissions and regional initiatives, as well as the work of institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna;

43. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, an informal network of interested United Nations entities that exchange information and integrate ageing into their work programmes on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

44. *Requests* the focal point on ageing of the United Nations system, the Programme on Ageing of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue to enhance its collaboration with the focal points of the regional commissions, funds and programmes, and recommends that Member States reaffirm the roles of focal points within the United Nations system, increase technical cooperation efforts, consider expanding the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to promote ageing issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

45. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations trust fund for ageing so as to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

[11] Resolution 71/256, annex.

46. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, national implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, where appropriate;

47. *Requests* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to ensure that the situation of older women is mainstreamed and incorporated across their work and to support, in accordance with their respective mandates, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its aspects of relevance to older persons, including gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

48. *Invites* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization, among others, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to include in reports to their respective governing bodies relevant information on efforts made by Member States and the international community on issues of relevance to older persons, including their social inclusion;

49. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing,[12] and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as national human rights institutions, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter and invited panellists, during the first nine working sessions of the Working Group, and invites Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Working Group, as appropriate;

50. *Encourages* Member States to continue to contribute to the work of the Open-ended Working Group, in particular by presenting measures to enhance the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons, such as best practices, lessons learned and possible content for a multilateral legal instrument, as appropriate, in order to enable it to fulfil its existing mandate of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures;

51. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support to the Open-ended Working Group for the organization of its tenth session, of a duration of four days, in April 2019, with the provision of conference services, including interpretation services, and to include the annual sessions of the Working Group in the Organization's calendar of conferences and meetings;

52. *Invites* the Independent Expert to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session under the agenda item entitled "Social development";

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

[12] A/AC.278/2016/2 and A/AC.278/2017/2.

Draft resolution V
Follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011, 67/142 of 20 December 2012, 68/136 of 18 December 2013, 69/144 of 18 December 2014, 71/163 of 19 December 2016 and 72/145 of 19 December 2017 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year in 2014 provided a useful opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also that the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes, especially those relating to family policies in the areas of poverty, work-family balance and intergenerational issues, with attention given to the rights and responsibilities of all family members, can contribute to ending poverty, ending hunger, ensuring a healthy life and promoting well-being for all at all ages, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, ensuring better education outcomes for children, including early childhood development and education, enabling access to employment opportunities and decent work for parents and caregivers, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and eliminating all forms of violence, in particular against women and girls, and supporting the overall quality of life of families, including families in vulnerable situations, so that family members can realize their full potential, as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Acknowledging that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing the continuing efforts of Governments, the United Nations system, regional organizations and civil society, including academic institutions, to fulfil the objectives of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national, regional and international levels,

Acknowledging that the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes have served as catalysts for a number of initiatives at the national and international levels, including many family policies and programmes to reduce poverty and hunger and promote the well-being of all at all ages, and can boost development efforts, contribute to better outcomes for children and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1]

[1] Resolution 70/1.

Acknowledging also that strengthening intergenerational relations, through such measures as promoting intergenerational living arrangements and encouraging extended family members to live in close proximity to each other, has been found to promote the autonomy, security and well-being of children and older persons, and that initiatives to promote involved and positive parenting and to support the role of grandparents have been found to be beneficial in advancing social integration and solidarity between generations, as well as in promoting and protecting the human rights of all family members,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues and to step up their efforts, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to implement those objectives, in particular in the areas of fighting poverty and hunger and ensuring the well-being of all at all ages;

3. *Invites* Member States to invest in a variety of inclusive family-oriented policies and programmes, which take into account the different needs and expectations of families, as important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[1]

4. *Encourages* Member States to continue to enact inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies for poverty reduction in line with the main objectives of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year, to confront family poverty and social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, focusing on inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, full and productive employment, decent work, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender- and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures, such as child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to promote work-family balance as conducive to the well-being of children, the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inter alia, through improved working conditions for workers with family responsibilities, flexible working arrangements, such as telecommuting, and leave arrangements, such as maternity leave and paternity leave, affordable, accessible and good-quality childcare and initiatives to promote the equal sharing of household responsibilities, including unpaid care work, between men and women;

6. *Further encourages* Member States to invest in family policies and programmes that enhance strong intergenerational interactions, such as intergenerational living arrangements, parenting education and support for grandparents, including grandparents who are primary caregivers, in an effort to promote inclusive urbanization, intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider providing universal and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations,

[7] A/73/61-E/2018/4.

as can be the case of families headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to basic services, high-quality education and health-care services;

8. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations trust fund on family activities;

9. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen cooperation with civil society, academic institutions and the private sector in the development and implementation of relevant family policies and programmes;

10. *Encourages* further collaboration between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the family field, as well as the enhancement of research efforts and awareness-raising activities relating to the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes;

11. *Requests* the focal point on the family of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to enhance collaboration with the regional commissions, funds and programmes, recommends that the roles of focal points within the United Nations system be reaffirmed, and invites Member States to increase technical cooperation efforts, consider enhancing the role of the regional commissions on family issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on family issues and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders to promote family issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

12. *Calls upon* Member States and agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, in consultation with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to provide information on their activities, including on good practices at the national, regional and international levels, in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, to be included in the report of the Secretary-General;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes by Member States and by agencies and bodies of the United Nations system;

14. *Decides* to consider the topic "Implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes" at its seventy-fourth session under the sub-item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" of the item entitled "Social development".

Draft resolution VI
Literacy for life: shaping future agendas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the 10 year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,[1] and its resolutions 59/149 of 20 December 2004, 61/140 of 19 December 2006, 63/154 of 18 December 2008, 65/183 of 21 December 2010, 68/132 of 18 December 2013, 69/141 of 18 December 2014 and 71/166 of 19 December 2016,

Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] which includes Sustainable Development Goal 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, with a specific target on ensuring that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy by 2030,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, young person and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they may face in life and represents an essential condition of lifelong learning, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the knowledge societies and economies of the twenty-first century, and to promote inclusive and equitable societies,

Reaffirming the right of indigenous peoples to have non-discriminatory access to all levels and forms of education provided by States, and recognizing the importance of effective measures to promote access for indigenous individuals, in particular children, to education in their own language, whenever possible, as addressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[3]

Deeply concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 750 million adults, two thirds of whom are women, lack basic literacy skills, that more than 617 million children and adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics and that 262 million children, adolescents and youth worldwide (or 1 in 5) are out of school — a figure that has barely changed over the past five years,[4]

Recognizing that literacy is crucial in a lifelong learning perspective as a continuum of different proficiency levels that are developed throughout life and across different life contexts,

Recognizing also that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education in order to enable millions of people to acquire literacy skills for decent work,

Recognizing further that literacy is a foundation for lifelong learning, a building block for achieving human rights and fundamental freedoms and a driver of sustainable development and that the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) had a catalytic effect as a global framework for sustained and focused efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments,

[1] See A/57/218 and A/57/218/Corr.1.
[2] Resolution 70/1.
[3] Resolution 61/295, annex.
[4] See A/71/292.

Recalling the International Conference on Girls' and Women's Literacy and Education: Foundations for Sustainable Development, held in Dhaka and co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in support of the Global Education First Initiative and on the occasion of International Literacy Day, on 8 September 2014, and taking note with appreciation of the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of human rights, gender equality, the empowerment of women and the eradication of poverty, as well as to development,

Recognizing the importance of continuing to implement national and subnational programmes and measures to eliminate illiteracy worldwide as reflected in the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted on 28 April 2000 at the World Education Forum,[5] consistent with Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard recognizing also the important contribution of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, innovative pedagogical methods in literacy,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, nearly two thirds of the world's non-literate adults are women,

Concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, one third of the children not attending school are children with disabilities and that the literacy rate among adults with disabilities is as low as 3 per cent in some countries,

Deeply concerned about the impact of disrupted educational services in humanitarian emergencies on efforts to promote literacy skills, especially for all children and young people,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas and education for democracy";[4]

2. *Commends* the efforts made by Member States, their development partners, the international donor community, the private sector, civil society and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the lead organization of the United Nations Literacy Decade, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in promoting enjoyment of the right to education, including by making progress on the five strategic axes of action for the period following the Decade;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to scale up literacy programmes for children, youth and adults, including older persons, with particular attention to those who are vulnerable or marginalized, to foster innovative delivery of literacy services, including through technology and a strengthened institutional network, to promote an intersectoral approach by linking literacy learning with multiple sectors to address diverse learning needs, such as through relevant and inclusive educational resources in different languages, to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships with the active participation of civil society and the private sector, to improve distance and digital learning resources and to develop a data-collection mechanism to assess levels of literacy, so as to encourage the integration of literacy learning into vocational training and health education to promote sustainable development;

[5] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

4. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector to sustain their collective efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments and to contribute to shaping the Global Alliance for Literacy within the framework of lifelong learning into an effective platform for synergistic action at the global, regional, national and community levels;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, and calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to consider implementing the recommendations contained therein;

6. *Urges* international development partners and Governments to ensure that funds mobilized by and channelled through existing international financing mechanisms for education also explicitly target and benefit youth and adult literacy;

7. *Calls upon* States, and invites other relevant stakeholders, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] including all literacy-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the specialized United Nations agency for education, to continue its mandated role to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 agenda, in particular through the Sustainable Development Goal Education 2030 Steering Committee, as an inclusive global multi-stakeholder consultation and coordination mechanism for education in the 2030 Agenda in accordance with the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review process;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its coordinating and catalysing role through the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Alliance for Literacy and by continuing to provide support to Member States, in collaboration with partners, in enhancing capacities for policy formulation, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as sharing information and knowledge on policies, programmes and progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal targets connected with literacy, especially target 4.1 on reading skills in primary and lower secondary school (including in indigenous languages) and target 4.6 on youth and adult literacy, and creating synergies of action between the Alliance and other initiatives, including its Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education and Global Network of Learning Cities;

10. *Encourages* efforts to provide quality education in safe learning environments for all, especially for boys, girls and youth, in humanitarian emergencies to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas".